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Somerset County Council

R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 3

J. F. DAVIDSON,

O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

County Medical Officer of Health.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

	PAGE
Staff 	3
Vital Statistics 	4
Infectious Diseases, Prevalence of, and Control over 	10
Orthopædic Scheme 	12
Blind Persons 	12
Health Services—	
Venereal disease 	12
Tuberculosis 	29
Health Centres 	14
Care of Mothers and Young Children 	14
Midwifery and Home Nursing Services 	19
Health Visiting 	21
Vaccination and Immunisation 	21
Ambulance Service 	25
Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care 	29
Home Help Service 	38
Mental Health Service 	39
Water Supplies 	46
Sewage Disposal 	52
Housing 	55
Sanitary Circumstances 	57
Camping Sites 	58
Swimming Baths 	58
Supervision of Food Supply 	58
Milk-in-Schools Scheme 	62
Ice Cream 	63
Report of County Public Analyst 	65

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,
Somerset County Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Seventeenth Annual Report on the Public Health Services of the County.

I am happy to report that generally the state of Public Health in Somerset remains satisfactory, and, in my Annual Report on the School Health Service, I was also able to record the high health standards now reached by the children of the County. The present position is one which gives much satisfaction to those of us who have worked in these services for many years, and I think the County Council may well feel that their policies and directions through the years have indeed been highly successful.

In 1953, it should be noted that the figures for Maternal Mortality and for Infant Mortality establish new low local records, and this result is a magnificent tribute to all who have worked so hard to bring this about.

One of the main features in the year's work was a very sharp outbreak of Poliomyelitis, which was mainly centred in Taunton. This outbreak gave rise to much anxiety, and its repercussions were widespread.

We are fortunate in Somerset in our general relations with the various other branches of medical practice in the County, and the co-operation and understanding now attained contribute greatly to the success of our Services.

The help of Voluntary Organisations is freely given to us, and I acknowledge gratefully the exceptional merits of voluntary work in Somerset.

I continue to be assisted greatly by the members of the County Staff, and I also pay tribute to the ready help which is given us by the other Departments of the County Council.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. F. DAVIDSON,

County Medical Officer of Health.

County Hall,
Taunton.

July, 1954.

STAFF.

The following are the Senior Public Health Officers:—

Central Office Staff:

County Medical Officer of Health

Principal School Medical Officer:

J. F. DAVIDSON, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy County Medical Officer of Health

Deputy School Medical Officer:

*L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.

Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare:

ISOBEL R. GORDON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Medical Officer for Mental Health:

BEATRICE M. SMITHIES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Principal Dental Officer:

QUENTIN DAVIES, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

County Public Analyst:

E. T. ILLING, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

County Sanitary Officer:

W. DEWHURST, F.S.I.A.

Chief Administrative Officer:

R. F. COTTRELL, D.P.A.

Ambulance Liaison Officer:

R. S. J. BISHOP, D.P.A.

Mental Welfare Officer:

A. H. EDWARDS, D.P.A., A.C.C.S.

County Nursing Officer:

Miss J. E. NOBES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Q.N.

Area Staff:

P. P. FOX, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer, Yeovil Area (also Medical Officer of Health, Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District).

D. McGOWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer, Weston-super-Mare Area (also Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Weston-super-Mare, Axbridge Rural District).

*L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.

Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer, Taunton Area (also Medical Officer of Health, Taunton Borough).

R. H. G. H. DENHAM, M.D., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer, Bathavon Area (also Medical Officer of Health, Frome Urban and Rural, Bathavon Rural, Keynsham Urban).

R. H. WATSON, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer, Bridgwater Area (also Medical Officer of Health, Bridgwater Borough, Bridgwater Rural and Burnham-on-Sea Urban).

A. M. McCALL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer, Langport Area (also Medical Officer of Health, Chard Borough, Ilminster Urban, Crewkerne Urban, Langport and Chard Rurals).

Committees:

The following are concerned in matters of public health:—

Health Committee: and its Sub-Committees for: Midwifery and Nursing Services,
Ambulance Service,
Water Supplies and Sewage Disposal,
Mental Health Services.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres): 1,026,048.

Population (1953): 483,200.

Live Births: Total 7,056; Legitimate 6,776; Illegitimate 280; Still births 124.

Deaths: Total 5,770; Urban 2,945; Rural 2,825.

Rateable value: £2,978,368 (1st April, 1953).

Sum represented by a penny rate £12,156 estimated (1953/54).

Birth rate 14.60; Illegitimate births 3.97 (per cent).

Death rate 11.94.

Deaths under 1 year of age: 154. Rate of infantile mortality: 21.82.

The birth rate shows an increase from last year's figure (14.46). The percentage of illegitimate births is still high and shows an increase from last year's figure (3.78).

The death rate (11.94) is lower than for the previous year (12.13). The rate of infantile mortality is 21.82 compared with 25.05 for 1952.

The chief causes of death were heart diseases (1,945 deaths), cancer and other forms of malignant disease (890 deaths), bronchitis and pneumonia (408 deaths), and tuberculosis (76 deaths).

The essential statistical returns covering births, infantile mortality, and deaths are given in tables I to V.

Births. The number of births for the year was 7,056 which gives a rate of 14.6 per thousand population as compared with 14.46 for 1952—a slight rise. As will be noted from Table V, the birth rate for England and Wales for 1953 was 15.5, but for true comparison purposes the Somerset figure has to be adjusted to make approximate allowances for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the Somerset population varies from that of England and Wales. The adjusted figure for births for Somerset is 15.62.

Deaths. The death rate at 11.94 is again lower than for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales is 11.4 and to compare the Somerset figures with the Country's rate it has to be adjusted in the same way as the birth rate. After adjustment the comparable Somerset rate is 10.15.

TABLE I

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1953

Causes of Death	Net Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring Within or Without the District								
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and under 75 years	75 and upwards
Tuberculosis, respiratory	70	0	1	1	3	18	29	12	6
Tuberculosis, other	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2
Syphilitic disease	7	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	1
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	10	0	1	3	3	3	0	0	0
Measles	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	18	0	2	0	0	6	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	152	0	0	0	0	1	44	59	48
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	135	0	0	0	0	11	73	35	16
Malignant neoplasm, breast	92	0	0	0	0	7	46	21	18
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	32	0	0	0	0	2	13	11	6
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	479	1	5	3	2	25	148	149	146
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	24	0	6	2	0	4	9	3	0
Diabetes	40	0	0	0	1	1	6	13	19
Vascular lesions of nervous system	859	0	0	1	1	12	137	262	446
Coronary disease, angina	627	0	0	0	0	5	140	243	239
Hypertension with heart disease	125	0	0	0	0	1	26	46	52
Other heart disease	1193	0	0	1	2	14	100	258	818
Other circulatory disease	312	0	0	0	0	8	55	82	167
Influenza	102	2	0	0	0	2	18	21	59
Pneumonia	175	17	2	3	0	5	36	38	74
Bronchitis	233	1	0	0	0	1	41	53	137
Other diseases of respiratory system	59	1	1	1	0	3	15	22	16
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	62	0	0	0	0	5	21	22	14
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	27	1	0	1	1	2	6	3	13
Nephritis and nephrosis	74	0	0	1	2	9	10	23	29
Hyperplasia of prostate	45	0	0	0	0	0	4	11	30
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	33	24	4	0	1	2	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	541	100	2	3	4	26	81	88	237
Motor vehicle accidents	62	0	3	5	16	13	14	6	5
All other accidents	109	6	4	3	15	12	11	13	45
Suicide	58	0	0	0	1	14	21	17	5
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All causes	5770	154	33	29	55	214	1117	1514	2654

TABLE II

Causes of Death at all Ages in each District during the Year 1953

RURAL DISTRICTS

Causes of Death	Axbridge	Bathavon	Bridgwater	Chard	Clutton	Dulverton	Frome	Langport	Long Ashton	Shepton Mallet	Taunton	Wellington	Wells	Williton	Wincanton	Yeovil	Total Rural Districts
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	5	2	3	0	1	1	2	2	3	5	0	3	1	1	4	34
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
Syphilitic disease	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	5
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	8
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	11	4	6	3	7	1	6	5	4	3	5	2	4	2	8	6	77
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	5	8	3	4	0	1	4	3	1	4	2	0	4	3	8	54
Malignant neoplasm, breast	4	4	1	3	3	2	2	2	6	1	10	2	2	2	6	1	51
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	8
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	29	13	21	6	10	1	4	13	22	11	15	10	12	14	16	15	212
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	2	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	16
Diabetes	4	1	1	2	0	0	1	4	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	3	21
Vascular lesions of nervous system	49	32	29	20	26	3	11	27	37	16	38	11	23	41	33	30	426
Coronary disease, angina	38	23	11	16	27	7	9	11	22	14	29	10	12	19	27	25	300
Hypertension with heart disease	5	11	3	1	7	4	1	2	9	1	4	4	3	4	5	2	66
Other heart disease	75	52	34	23	50	9	23	26	36	39	47	15	69	24	42	33	597
Other circulatory disease	14	5	18	2	11	5	2	8	13	7	25	11	8	12	8	13	162
Influenza	4	5	4	3	10	1	0	4	4	0	5	3	0	0	4	3	50
Pneumonia	6	9	4	2	5	1	4	4	6	5	14	2	10	3	7	6	88
Bronchitis	9	7	4	7	6	1	4	3	5	6	15	2	4	14	5	7	99
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	4	1	0	6	0	0	3	2	1	3	1	1	7	1	0	33
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	1	2	0	2	1	0	1	6	0	4	2	2	0	0	1	27
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	12
Nephritis and nephrosis	9	1	3	1	0	2	0	3	1	1	5	2	2	1	1	2	34
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	3	1	1	1	4	2	21
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Congenital malformations	1	0	1	0	3	0	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	2	0	2	17
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	17	14	23	15	0	6	12	21	8	43	3	13	27	18	20	262
Motor vehicle accidents	8	3	6	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	4	2	2	1	0	5	38
All other accidents	8	2	11	10	3	0	2	1	11	3	7	1	2	2	4	0	67
Suicide	3	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	1	3	3	0	1	1	3	4	26
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All causes	322	213	191	131	201	42	87	140	222	128	295	90	178	190	199	196	2825

TABLE III

Causes of Death at all Ages in each District during the Year 1953

URBAN DISTRICTS

Causes of Death	Bridgwater	Burnham	Chard	Clevedon	Crewkerne	Frome	Glastonbury	Ilminster	Keynsham	Minehead	Norton-Radstock	Portishead	Shepton Mallet	Street	Taunton	Watchet	Wellington	Wells	Weston-super-Mare	Yeovil	Total Urban Districts	County Total
erculosis, respiratory ...	4	4	1	5	1	4	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	4	4	36	70
erculosis, other ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	6
ilitic disease ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	7
theria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
oping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
ingococcal infections ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
ce poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	10
sles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
er infective and parasitic																						
seases ...	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	10	18
gnant neoplasm, stomach	8	4	2	4	2	2	1	1	3	2	3	1	4	1	13	2	3	1	12	6	75	152
gnant neoplasm, lung,																						
onchus ...	10	1	0	4	1	3	2	0	6	4	2	2	1	0	9	2	3	4	18	9	81	135
gnant neoplasm, breast ...	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	6	1	1	2	2	0	5	0	2	1	10	6	41	92
gnant neoplasm, uterus ...	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	3	5	3	24	32
er malignant and lymphatic																						
oplasms ...	27	9	6	15	2	14	10	2	25	8	8	8	5	7	32	2	6	6	48	27	267	479
semia, aleukemia ...	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	8	24
betes ...	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	4	1	19	40
cular lesions of nervous																						
stem ...	37	27	6	27	9	13	7	3	35	17	12	7	6	6	49	5	9	22	87	49	433	859
nary disease, angina ...	23	11	8	21	7	18	7	3	18	16	15	15	5	6	38	4	12	6	68	26	327	627
ertension with heart disease	13	0	3	3	1	3	1	0	1	2	3	1	2	4	8	1	3	0	9	1	59	125
r heart disease ...	45	29	12	30	12	33	12	4	13	29	15	3	29	2	113	5	12	11	120	62	596	1193
r circulatory disease ...	13	12	0	9	0	8	10	3	5	1	8	2	3	0	28	0	8	6	25	9	150	312
enza ...	7	4	4	5	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	2	7	0	5	0	2	0	5	4	52	102
monia ...	19	3	1	1	1	4	1	0	2	1	9	3	0	0	10	1	4	4	13	10	87	175
chitis ...	15	2	3	4	3	7	4	0	4	3	7	5	7	0	20	2	1	5	28	14	134	233
r diseases of respiratory																						
stem ...	0	2	0	6	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	1	2	3	0	0	2	2	2	26	59
r of stomach and duodenum	0	2	0	2	1	2	2	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	8	0	3	2	4	3	35	62
ritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3	1	15	27
ritis and nephrosis ...	3	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	6	1	1	0	5	0	2	3	4	7	40	74
erplasia of prostate ...	3	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	1	3	1	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	3	0	24	45
nancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
enital malformations ...	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	3	1	16	33
r defined and ill-defined																						
seases ...	31	9	15	23	4	8	3	4	4	11	8	6	1	2	28	5	7	39	47	24	279	541
r vehicle accidents ...	4	0	1	2	1	3	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	3	24	62
ther accidents ...	4	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	8	1	1	1	2	1	5	0	3	0	7	3	42	109
de ...	5	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	6	0	0	1	4	2	32	58
icide and operations of war	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All causes ...	281	127	69	169	48	137	68	25	144	109	118	66	82	36	409	32	86	120	538	281	2945	5770

TABLE IV

Table showing, for each Rural District, the number of Births and Deaths, the number of Deaths of Infants, also the Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Rate of Infantile Mortality

RURAL DISTRICTS.	Births	Deaths	Deaths under 1 year	Population	Crude Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
Axbridge ...	361	322	13	28,710	12.57	15.21	11.22	10.10	36.01
Bathavon ...	313	213	7	19,170	16.33	15.84	11.11	9.67	22.36
Bridgwater ...	310	191	4	20,310	15.26	17.09	9.40	8.18	12.90
Chard ...	185	131	3	13,130	14.09	15.50	9.98	8.38	16.22
Clutton ...	253	201	9	17,230	14.68	16.00	11.67	10.15	35.57
Dulverton ...	65	42	1	4,422	14.70	16.17	9.50	7.79	15.38
Frome ...	170	87	2	10,390	16.36	18.16	8.37	6.95	11.76
Langport ...	221	140	6	12,800	17.27	18.48	10.94	8.75	27.15
Long Ashton ...	302	222	7	23,010	13.12	13.25	9.65	8.59	23.18
Shepton Mallet ...	179	128	4	10,870	16.47	19.60	11.78	10.84	22.35
Taunton ...	297	295	7	21,420	13.87	14.98	13.77	11.57	23.57
Wellington ...	120	90	0	7,778	15.43	16.36	11.57	9.49	0.0
Wells ...	166	178	3	10,180	16.31	19.57	17.49	14.34	18.07
Williton ...	192	190	4	12,710	15.11	16.77	14.95	11.66	20.83
Wincanton ...	263	199	5	17,580	14.96	16.61	11.32	9.17	19.01
Yeovil ...	332	196	7	24,490	13.56	14.51	8.00	7.68	21.08
Totals of Rural Districts ...	3,729	2,825	82	254,200	14.67	15.99	11.11	9.55	21.99

TABLE V

Table showing, for each Urban District, the number of Births and Deaths, the number of Deaths of Infants, also the Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Rate of Infantile Mortality

URBAN DISTRICTS.	Births	Deaths	Deaths under 1 year	Population	Crude Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
Bridgwater ...	429	281	15	23,540	18.22	17.86	11.94	11.46	34.97
Burnham ...	152	127	4	9,526	15.96	17.71	13.33	10.40	26.32
Chard ...	89	69	0	5,354	16.62	17.95	12.89	11.21	0.0
Clevedon ...	118	169	1	9,580	12.32	13.80	17.64	11.82	8.47
Crewkerne ...	60	48	2	3,940	15.23	16.60	12.18	10.23	33.33
Frome ...	167	137	4	11,220	14.88	16.07	12.21	9.65	23.95
Glastonbury ...	70	68	1	5,137	13.63	14.31	13.24	10.99	14.29
Ilminster ...	45	25	0	2,659	16.92	17.09	9.40	8.65	0.0
Keynsham ...	112	144	3	8,593	13.03	13.55	16.76	14.08	26.79
Minehead ...	76	109	2	7,333	10.36	11.29	14.86	9.66	26.32
Norton-Radstock...	182	118	3	12,030	15.13	16.34	9.81	9.52	16.48
Portishead ...	92	66	2	4,852	18.96	20.67	13.60	10.74	21.74
Shepton Mallet ...	82	82	0	5,272	15.55	15.24	15.55	15.24	0.0
Street ...	78	36	1	5,964	13.08	12.69	6.04	5.50	12.82
Taunton ...	479	409	9	34,660	13.82	14.37	11.80	11.21	18.79
Watchet ...	31	32	1	2,542	12.20	13.54	12.59	10.58	32.26
Wellington ...	97	86	5	7,376	13.15	15.25	11.66	9.21	51.55
Wells ...	80	120	1	6,002	13.33	14.80	19.99	16.19	12.50
Weston-s.-Mare ...	532	538	10	39,650	13.42	13.96	13.57	9.77	18.80
Yeovil ...	356	281	8	23,770	14.98	15.13	11.82	10.87	22.47
Totals of Urban Districts ...	3,327	2,945	72	229,000	14.53	15.26	12.86	10.67	21.64
Administrative County	7,056	5,770	154	483,200	14.60	15.62	11.94	10.15	21.82
England and Wales, 1953 ...	—	—	—	—	15.5	—	11.4	—	26.8

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The cases of notifiable disease and their distribution are shown in Table VI. Total figures for 1952 are also given for comparison. It will be noted that the number of cases of measles notified was 7,598 against 780 for the previous year. Whooping cough notifications remain at about the same level, and there are slight variations in other notifications. Poliomyelitis showed an increase from 73 to 129 cases in the year.

Poliomyelitis. During the year there were 129 confirmed cases of Poliomyelitis in Somerset. This compares with a figure of 73 for the previous year. The details of the cases occurring during the last eight years are as follows and the figures shown in brackets are the number of deaths:—

1946	...	...	...	...	...	21	(5)
1947	...	...	...	...	...	64	(1)
1948	...	...	...	...	...	34	(5)
1949	...	...	...	...	...	84	(6)
1950	...	...	...	...	...	140	(8)
1951	...	...	...	...	...	53	(4)
1952	...	...	...	...	...	73	(4)
1953	...	...	...	...	...	129	(10)

Of the ten deaths, two were infants (aged four and six) and the remainder ranged from thirteen to thirty-five years of age, four of them being over the age of twenty. As usual, the highest incidence of cases fell during the months of July, August, September and October, when 111 cases of the 129 were notified. In the majority of instances, patients were admitted to isolation hospitals. This year an unusual feature was the rather heavy concentration of cases in and around Taunton, when we were receiving notifications of cases at the rate of about six or seven a week. Naturally this necessitated considerable restriction of operative and immunisation work, and it was a period of some anxiety. During this time we also found it necessary to close all primary and secondary schools in the Borough of Taunton and one or two rural schools on the outskirts. It was also necessary to advise other restrictions on school group activities. There were other minor concentrated outbreaks in the Wincanton, Yeovil and Minehead areas which resulted in the application of certain restrictions.

AMENDMENT.

Page 10. Under "Poliomyelitis" substitute the figure of "157" for "129" in three places.

Page 11. Column "Acute Poliomyelitis" substitute "31" for "3" against Taunton Urban.

Amend totals—Urban Districts from "64" to "62"
Administrative County from "129" to "157".

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE VI.

	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric and Paratyphoid Fevers	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Dysentery	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Acute Poliomyelitis	Encephalitis Lethargica
URBAN.												
Bridgwater	541	7	0	0	0	1	2	2	37	3	3	0
Burnham	297	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	10	1	0
Chard	63	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	2	3	0
Clevedon	302	0	0	0	12	0	0	2	3	2	6	0
Crewkerne	84	1	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	1	2	0
Frome	374	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0
Glastonbury	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	2	0
Ilminster	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keynsham	170	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	22	7	0	0
Minehead	39	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	105	1	1	1
Norton-Radstock	255	21	0	0	1	0	1	2	21	2	2	0
Portishead	17	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Shepton Mallet	30	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	8	0	0	0
Street	140	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	10	1	0
Taunton	372	53	0	0	4	1	0	22	27	24	3	0
Watchet	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0
Wellington	54	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Wells	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	1	1	0
Weston-super-Mare	481	47	0	0	1	0	1	6	99	9	1	0
Yeovil	417	5	0	0	5	2	0	0	69	14	5	0
RURAL.												
Axbridge	247	41	0	0	0	0	1	0	45	8	2	0
Bathavon	279	10	0	0	1	0	0	11	28	11	4	1
Bridgwater	322	22	0	0	1	0	0	0	22	8	2	0
Chard	190	10	1	0	1	0	0	0	14	3	3	0
Clutton	405	21	0	0	12	0	1	3	56	16	1	0
Dulverton	154	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	10	3	0
Frome	287	14	0	0	1	0	1	9	121	15	4	0
Langport	64	28	0	0	4	0	0	7	63	28	5	0
Long Ashton	434	44	0	0	0	0	0	4	33	33	4	0
Shepton Mallet	65	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	1	3	0
Taunton	296	22	2	0	1	0	0	21	23	6	8	1
Wellington	141	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	0	2	0
Wells	81	8	0	0	2	0	1	0	36	0	1	0
Williton	46	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	2	6	0
Wincanton	411	13	0	0	1	0	1	4	70	14	31	0
Yeovil	438	14	0	0	2	0	1	2	104	18	16	0
Urban Districts	3738	180	0	1	32	5	4	39	473	101	34	1
Rural Districts	3860	262	3	0	26	0	7	61	788	173	95	2
Administrative County	7598	442	3	1	58	5	11	100	1261	274	129	3
Comparative figures for 1952 are:—	780	504	0	2	50	0	13	50	1287	171	73	3

Venereal Diseases. The following are the attendances of Somerset cases at the various clinics for the past three years. The figures in brackets indicate the number of new cases suffering from "other conditions" and conditions remaining undiagnosed at 31st December, 1953:—

Clinics	New Cases				Attendances			
	1951	1952	1953	Increase or decrease during 1953	1951	1952	1953	Increase or decrease during 1953
Bath	31 (24)	29 (23)	42 (33)	+13	233	212	310	+ 98
Bristol	85 (63)	79 (59)	86 (69)	+ 7	669	527	768	+241
Taunton	55 (44)	36 (29)	38 (28)	+ 2	535	513	403	-110
Yeovil	63 (47)	79 (68)	59 (52)	-20	685	721	673	- 48
Bridgwater	72 (60)	48 (37)	35 (26)	-13	415	465	314	-151
Frome	1 (1)	Closed.	Closed.	-	40	Closed.	Closed.	-
Minehead	1 (1)	Closed.	Closed.	-	8	Closed.	Closed.	-
Weston-super-Mare ..	48 (34)	47 (37)	31 (23)	-16	254	226	124	-102
All Clinics ...	356(274)	318(253)	291(231)	-27	2,839	2,664	2,592	- 72

As will be seen the figures show a steady decline both in number of cases and attendances over the last three years. A comparison with the 1948 figure will show that in that year there were 608 new cases. There is, therefore, a steady decline although we have not yet reached the pre-war level.

ORTHOPÆDIC SCHEME.

As in previous years a note on the County Scheme and its work during 1953 is given in my report for 1953 as Principal School Medical Officer.

BLIND PERSONS.

The arrangement whereby the Somerset Association for the Blind carries out the general work on behalf of and with a grant from, the County Council, is maintained. This set-up works exceedingly well in practice and experience shows that it seems preferable to one in which the Local Authority does the actual welfare work through officials of the Authority.

Seven Home Teachers, one of whom is blind, were employed by the County Association for the Blind during 1953. There were 17 Home Workers under the supervision of the Bristol Royal Blind Asylum Workshops. At the end of 1953, 1,089 persons (432 men and 657 women) in the County registered as blind, compared with 1,030 at the end of 1952. It is to be expected that the number of registered blind will increase as more and more of the population reach old age.

Certification by a medical practitioner with special experience in ophthalmology is required before registration except in a very few cases, chiefly in aged and bedridden people in remote areas where, by a modification by the Minister of Health, the medical attendant may complete the neces-

sary B.D. 8. Little delay is now experienced generally in having persons known to be blind admitted to the register, and the help and co-operation of Ophthalmic Surgeons in supplying the necessary information is appreciated.

An examination of 184 forms B.D. 8 received during the year shows the following:—

(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which para. 7 (c) of form B.D. 8 recommends—				Cataract.	Glaucoma.	Retrolental Fibroplasia.	Others.
(a) No treatment				38	16	2	76
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical)				28	12	—	12
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment				28	12	—	12

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year				5
(ii) Number of cases in which—				
(a) Vision lost				0
(b) Vision impaired				0
(c) Treatment continuing at end of year				0

In the 28 cases of Glaucoma 24 gave information as to having had treatment, 2 had received no treatment and in the remaining two both were senile and no information was obtainable—one of these two died shortly after certification. Both the two cases shown as retrolental fibroplasia were premature born infants.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACTS.

The work of the past year has proceeded on much the same lines as before with minor adjustments to fit changing circumstances. These will be dealt with in the relevant sections of the report which follow.

I would, however, like to draw attention in this preliminary paragraph to one or two matters of particular interest. The first of these relates to the Home Help Service. As I have said in previous reports, this is a permissive service which tends to be frequently in the public's mind, partly perhaps because of its overall cost and secondly and possibly more importantly, because its availability or lack can have important effects in homes needing its help. The figures show increasing demands for assistance and it is difficult and often distressing to have to limit or refuse help in instances which come to us, but we are faced with the financial limitation on expenditure and we have to spread our resources over a large area. The "ceiling" of hours available for Home Helps continues to drop as higher wages are awarded and it is becoming increasingly difficult to give as adequate a service as we could two or three years ago. I am quite sure, however, that the community as a whole gets full value from this scheme and its saving in welfare and hospital beds is far beyond the cost of the service.

The second point relates to the Mental Health Service and in particular to Occupation Centres. The premises used for some of our centres have been far from suitable, and in one instance at least most unsuitable. Although the standard of work at these centres is high it is undoubtedly often limited by lack of essential facilities. During the year, therefore, this problem has received special consideration with a view to obtaining improved premises either by building or leasing. Such premises or sites for them are not easy to find but progress is being made. Much has been done in recent years to improve standards at centres and in Somerset is to keep pace with modern development much needs to be done. However, our present position, with the exception of one or two black spots, is quite good, and as regards the work itself, most excellent results continue to be obtained.

In the Ambulance Service report will be found interesting detail regarding the use of radio control. This method of control invades every type of service these days and I think I may say that it is particularly suited to Ambulance work where speed is often so vital. Although the report itself gives little information as to financial economies produced by this type of control, I think I can say at the time of writing that these are increasingly apparent and may well in themselves prove a justification for the introduction of radio control.

As regards the Nursing Service, housing has continued as a problem of first importance although much has now been done to improve the position. District Councils have been helpful, and in fact in many instances have been our mainstay in providing accommodation. I think it is now more generally realised that if the community is to obtain its nurses, housing is a vital factor and local councils with this in mind when building new housing estates, have been increasingly willing to offer help.

This year the Ministry of Health have asked for a reference to be made to Epileptics and Spastics and some detail will be found which I hope will be of interest.

HEALTH CENTRES.

On this I have nothing to report. No action has yet been taken to initiate such centres in Somerset.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Ante-natal Care. The arrangements are substantially those described a year ago, medical ante-natal clinics being held at Taunton, Weston-super-Mare and Yeovil, with midwives' clinics not only at these centres but also at Bridgwater, Crewkerne, Frome and Glastonbury.

			Women attending		New cases.		Total attendances.	
			Ante-natal.	Post-natal.	Ante-natal.	Post-natal.	Ante-natal.	Post-natal.
Taunton	...	...	512	45	411	45	1,822	64
Weston-super-Mare	...	...	227	21	178	2	695	21
Yeovil	...	...	59	6	35	6	114	7

At each of these centres (with the exception of Frome) there are facilities for the taking of blood for routine Wasserman, Kahn, Rhesus, and hæmoglobin tests, and for blood grouping. These facilities are used very fully by medical practitioners. There is obviously a growing recognition of the need for blood testing and grouping. I regret, however, that there are still a few areas in the county where this need does not appear to be realised, but, no doubt, this will be corrected as the public becomes increasingly aware of its importance.

In addition to clinic supervision, the county midwives continue to give domiciliary supervision to all pregnant women of whom they are aware, whether the confinement is to take place at home or in hospital. The majority of medical practitioners welcome the midwife's help in this sphere, and many have special sessions for ante-natal work at which the midwife is present. In the larger towns evening group talks to expectant mothers are arranged, these being more successful than those given at routine clinics. A series of four or five talks is given and is well attended (at one centre not only by expectant mothers but also by their husbands). The health visitor, hospital midwife, and domiciliary midwife co-operate in this educational work and use is made of demonstration materials and of film strips.

Supplies of maternity outfits are held by midwives who make an outfit available for every domiciliary confinement.

The selection of patients for admission to maternity units for social reasons continues to be dealt with through the Health Department. 3,733 applications were received during the year to 3,530 of whom accommodation was allocated. As in the past, if accommodation near the patient's home is not available, the offer of admission to a more distant hospital is very frequently refused.

Of the 7,056 births in the County, 33 per cent were domiciliary confinements.

Maternal mortality. During the year two maternal deaths occurred, both in hospital. This represents a figure of 0.28 per 1,000 births and is the lowest ever recorded in Somerset. The steady fall in the maternal mortality figure reflects the very high standard of both hospital and domiciliary midwifery practice, and of the supervision provided during the ante-natal period.

Infant mortality. A new low record of infant mortality in Somerset has been established in 1953, the rate being 21.8 per 1,000 live births compared with 25.05 in 1952. The corresponding rates for the country as a whole are 26.8 in 1953 and 27.6 in 1952. This Somerset figure must be a matter of considerable satisfaction to those concerned with all aspects of child health, as it reflects the high level not only of infant care but also the high standard of ante-natal supervision and of midwifery practice.

For the years 1950-1952 the neo-natal death rate (i.e., deaths of infants under the age of one month) has varied little, the figure being just over 18 per 1,000 live births. It is satisfactory to note that the figure for 1953 shows a substantial drop to 16 per 1,000 live births. Prematurity continues to account for a very large proportion of neo-natal deaths and until more is known of the causes and prevention of premature delivery it is improbable that there will be any spectacular reduction in this figure.

Efforts are made to obtain reports on all deaths of infants under one year of age in Somerset, and I would like to record my appreciation of the co-operation of medical practitioners and of hospital staff for their assistance in supplying the details asked for.

I append an analysis of the reports received in 1952 and in 1953:—

Analysis of Reports on Infant Deaths in Somerset, 1952 - 1953.

Causes of Death	1952			1953		
	Total	Neo-natal	Over one month	Total	Neo-natal	Over one month
Prematurity	53	53	—	61	61	—
Atelectasis	4	4	—	11	11	—
Congenital abnormality ...	41	27	14	25	20	5
Respiratory infection ...	16	5	11	15	3	12
Birth injury	16	16	—	9	9	—
Asphyxia and inhalation pneumonia ...	9	3	6	4	—	4
Gastro-enteritis	6	—	6	2	1	1
Other causes	9	5	4	19	9	10

Care of Premature Infants. The special arrangements previously in operation continue and midwives try to secure the immediate admission to hospital of any woman who comes into labour more than three weeks prematurely. If this is not possible, medical aid is sought in each case and the medical practitioner decides whether transfer to a premature baby unit is necessary. If not, an Area Assistant Nursing Officer follows up the case and satisfies herself that all the necessary equipment is available for the safe nursing of the premature infant in its own home and, if necessary, arranges for the loan of county equipment. She follows the progress until satisfied that further special supervision is no longer necessary.

Premature live births.

Born in hospital	310
Died within 24 hours of birth	44
Survived 28 days	248
Born at home and nursed entirely at home	70
Died within 24 hours of birth	4
Survived 28 days	65
Born at home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day	39
Died within 24 hours of birth	6
Survived 28 days	30

Premature still-births.

Born in hospital	45
Born at home	14

Retrolental fibroplasia. As a result of the increasing number of cases of retrolental fibroplasia in premature infants resulting in blindness or serious impairment of vision, the Ministry of Health conducted a national enquiry relating to all premature babies born in 1951 weighing up to 4 lbs. 6 ozs. at birth and surviving two months or more. Of 74 such babies born in Somerset two, who were born and nursed at home, were found to be blind.

Child Welfare. During 1953, three new centres were opened at Bridgwater (Hamp Estate), Combe St. Nicholas, and Locking R.A.F. Station, and at the end of the year there were in the County a total of 99 centres, the medical work at 40 being undertaken by general practitioners and at the remainder by Assistant County Medical Officers.

Cases.		Attendances.	
Under 1 year.	1 - 5 years.	Under 1 year.	1 - 5 years.
3,343	8,484	38,278	28,337

The standard of accommodation in many instances leaves much to be desired, but in spite of this much useful work is done. Efforts have been made to extend the educational side of child welfare centres, and staff are encouraged to give short talks to groups of mothers. Film strips are proving popular and in a few centres demonstrations have been arranged through the courtesy of the Education Department Homecraft Service.

I would again like to pay tribute to the voluntary committees and helpers without whose assistance it would be difficult to maintain rural child welfare centres.

Special supervision is given to all children under the age of five years who are suffering from defects, whether physical or mental, and periodic reports are obtained and necessary action taken.

During 1953, 587 such children were referred to the Health Department :—

Orthopædic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	226
Eye: Blindness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Ear, nose and throat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Neglect	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Mental retardation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Debility; prematurity; feeding difficulties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Malnutrition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other chest conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Hare lip and cleft palate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Speech defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Skin conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98

74,086 home visits to children under one year of age and 110,989 visits to children from 1 - 5 years of age have been paid by full-time or part-time Health Visitors.

Arrangements were made for 8 children under five years of age in need of convalescent care to be admitted to Broomhayes Nursery, North Devon, contributions being recovered from the parents in accordance with the County scale of assessment.

Children neglected in their own homes. The Co-ordinating Committee meets periodically, under the chairmanship of the Children's Officer, to consider how best to secure improvement in child care in such homes. Moral Welfare, W.V.S., and N.S.P.C.C. workers all co-operate in discussing the particular problem in each case and in deciding the line of action. Attempts are made to limit to a minimum the number of individuals visiting the problem homes, and health visitors are asked to give special supervision and instruction as part of the efforts to improve the standard of care.

Unmarried Mothers. Similar arrangements to those previously in force continue. An Area Assistant Nursing Officer visits to ascertain the needs of each case, except where a Moral Welfare Worker is already dealing with it. Cases are referred to a Moral Welfare Worker where circumstances appear to require it, and their co-operation is greatly appreciated. Their help in obtaining suitable employment and accommodation is of great assistance, in addition to the other forms of help they give. The hostel for unmarried mothers at Braeside fills a need for those girls who are rejected by their parents, or who, for other reasons, must leave home during late pregnancy. They are admitted from four to eight weeks before the expected delivery or in exceptional cases even earlier. The confinement is arranged at an appropriate hospital and they return with the infant for up to two months, or occasionally longer, until the future of the baby is decided. This period has proved most valuable in enabling the unmarried mother to become stabilised and to reach a decision as to her own future and that of the child. Where special circumstances demand admission to a Moral Welfare Home for a prolonged period, financial help towards maintenance is provided, and when arrangements must be made for the illegitimate child apart from its mother, the help of the Children's Officer is sought.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Five cases were notified during the year in the Districts shown in Table VI.

Puerperal Pyrexia. Fifty-eight cases were notified during the year in the Districts shown in Table VI.

Birth Control. During 1953, advice and assistance on birth control for medical reasons were given in 113 cases.

Dental Care—Report of the Chief Dental Officer. The improvement in the staffing situation at the end of 1952 unfortunately was not maintained during 1953.

In point of fact recruitment continued to improve steadily during the first quarter of 1953 until in April we had reached the satisfactory figure of eighteen dental officers. We then lost several dental officers in quick succession until at the end of the year the staff had again been reduced to thirteen. All these officers have transferred to private practice and have said that they wished to do so for financial reasons. It is anticipated that a new scale of salaries for public dental officers will be recommended early in the new year and this, it is hoped, will help materially to encourage the recruitment of newly qualified dentists.

The dental treatment given by the County Dental Staff to expectant and nursing mothers and to pre-school children for the year ended 31st December, 1953, is shown in the table below:—

(a) Numbers provided with dental care:

	Examined.	Needing Treatment.	Treated.	Made Dentally fit.
Expectant and nursing mothers ...	224	214	198	147
Children under five ...	777	725	673	380

(b) Forms of dental treatment provided:

	Extractions.	Anaesthetics.		Fillings.	Scalings or Scalings and Gum Treatment.	Silver Nitrate Treatment.
		Local.	General.			
Expectant and nursing mothers	455	125	86	440	67	16
Children under five ...	989	7	534	371	12	185

								Dressings.	Radiographs.
Expectant and nursing mothers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	249	31
Children under five	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	212	3

Dentures provided by County Dental Laboratory:

Complete	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Partial	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
								<hr/> 83 <hr/>

The number of sessions devoted to this service by the County Dental Officers totalled 263.

Day Nurseries. As a result of the County Council's policy that a scale of assessment should be applied to the income of parents of children, instead of a fixed charge of 2/- per day, attendances at the Day Nurseries declined and the Health Committee decided that with the approval of the Minister of Health, the Frome and Weston-super-Mare Day Nurseries should be closed as from the 31st July, 1953. The number of places at Bridgwater Day Nursery has been reduced to 20-25 children and at Taunton Day Nursery to 30; Keynsham Day Nursery has been maintained for 20-24 children. Admission to Day Nurseries has continued to be made by the local Sub-Committees on a defined priority system according to child need.

Two private nurseries at Frome and Weston-super-Mare have been registered under the Nurseries and Child Minders' Act, 1948.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICES.

The supervision of the Midwifery and Nursing Services is undertaken by a Senior Medical Officer, the County Nursing Officer, her deputy and three assistants.

Full-time midwives are employed at Bridgwater and Taunton and full-time male and female nurses at Bridgwater, Taunton and Weston-super-Mare.

Details of the District Staff employed at the end of the year, together with details of the midwifery and nursing work done by them during 1953 are shown below:—

								On Permanent Districts.	Emergency Staff.
Queen's Nurse-Midwives with H.V. Certificate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74	—
Queen's Nurse-Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57	3
S.R.N., S.C.M.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	5
S.E.A.N., S.C.M.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	8
Queen's District Nurses (including 3 male nurses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
S.C.M.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
S.E.A.N.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
S.R.N.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
								<hr/> 180 <hr/>	<hr/> 24 <hr/>

				Visits.
Midwifery	...	...		24,876
Maternity	...	...		23,010
Ante-natal	...	...		38,164
Post-natal	...	...		6,756
Medical	...	...		256,449
Surgical	...	...		72,525
Infectious Diseases	...	...		1,376
Tuberculosis	...	...		5,408
Maternal complications...				4,534
Others	...	...		22,176
Child Welfare Sessions	...	...	...	3,413
School Medical Inspection Sessions	...	...	...	732

Medical aid was summoned in accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives' Board on 256 occasions.

During the year 8 nurses successfully completed Queen's District Training and 13 Part II Midwifery Training. Three midwives have been trained in the use of gas and air analgesia and at the end of the year 180 domiciliary midwives were qualified to use the apparatus. Gas and air was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice in 1,721 cases and pethedine was administered in 954 cases.

Although the County Council decided to withdraw from the Joint Scheme with the Taunton Hospital Management Committee for Part II Midwifery Training, the arrangements have continued whereby 14 pupils completed their District Training with District Nurse/Midwives who have been approved as District teachers by the Central Midwives' Board.

As in previous years, a three-day post-graduate course for midwives, nurses and health visitors was held in May and was fully attended and greatly appreciated by the staff, whilst at a number of centres throughout the County area staff meetings have been held at which members of the Nursing Services have had the opportunity of discussing problems affecting their work.

Sixteen members of the Nursing Service attended refresher courses during the year.

Difficulty has been experienced in finding accommodation for district nurse/midwives in certain areas, with the result that it has not been possible to make permanent appointments, as nurses are reluctant to accept posts where the housing position is precarious.

The Midwifery and Nursing Services Sub-Committee of the Health Committee has given careful consideration to the question of housing of District Nurse/Midwives, and although the County Council has power to provide a house for a District Nurse, the Committee was of the opinion that the cost of building a single house in any particular place must necessarily compare very unfavourably with the cost per house when a number of houses are built together on a housing estate. The Committee's policy is therefore to ask a local housing authority either (a) to let a house to the County Council for occupation by a District Nurse or alternatively (b) to build an additional house (with modifications such as a District Room and garage) as part of their general contract and to sell this house to the County Council, for the occupation of a District Nurse.

Several local housing authorities during the year have allocated to the County Council the tenancies of Council houses for the use of the District Nurses, whilst the respective District Councils have offered to build and sell houses to the County Council at Portishead, Hatch Beauchamp, Langford, Othery and Nether Stowey. A new house for the District Nurse at Clutton has been built by the County Council, and it is hoped that a house will be completed at Pensford during next year.

The County Council has authorised negotiations for the purchase of the five houses and furniture belonging to the County Nursing Association, and during the year houses at Wells and Kingsbrompton were purchased from the District Nursing Associations and a bungalow at Wookey was erected by the Wells Rural District Council for the occupation of the District Nurse.

The housing accommodation available in December, 1953, may be shown as follows:—

Houses owned by County Council	...	...	...	...	...	9
Houses owned by District or County Nursing Association	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rented by County Council—						
(a) from private owners	...	...	...	...	...	25
(b) from local housing authorities	...	...	...	...	...	28
						<hr/> 75 <hr/>

All except 22 of the District Nursing Associations in the County have dissolved and in a number of cases their furniture, cars and garages which they provided for the use of the District Nurse/Midwives have been purchased by the County Council.

At the end of the year 129 motor cars were provided by the County Council and 12 by District Nursing Associations for the transport of District Nurse/Midwives.

HEALTH VISITING.

Thirty-one full-time health visitors continue to be employed in the urban areas and on tuberculosis and school work, and further progress has been made in the training of District Nurse/Midwives undertaking health visiting duties, 74 now being qualified with 16 still undergoing instruction. The scope of the Health Visitor's work continues to expand, and she is more and more concerned with the health of the family as a whole.

During 1953, 10,973 families or households were visited by the whole-time health visitors and 23,315 by District Nurse/Midwives.

Details of visits are given below:—

	Full-time Health Visitors.	District Nurse/Midwives Health Visitors.
Expectant mothers	846	11,950
Children:		
Under 1 year of age	13,534	60,552
1—2 years of age	8,632	33,875
2—5 years of age	13,998	54,484
Tuberculous households	7,788	1,385
Other visits, including school children, orthopaedic, special visits, old people, etc.	9,845	17,687

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Diphtheria Immunisation. In 1953, 63 per cent of the previous year's live births were immunised against diphtheria. Of these 5,022, some 1,350 were simultaneously inoculated against whooping cough by means of the combined prophylactic.

The diphtheria figures, although representing a very solid amount of work, cannot be regarded as satisfactory, falling short as they do of the target figure of 75 per cent. Strenuous attempts to reduce this gap have been made, including letters to all the doctors and nurses concerned and a publicity campaign which included newspapers, hoardings and the radio.

The prevalence of poliomyelitis during the summer of 1953 inevitably reduced the amount of diphtheria immunisation.

Although 1953, unlike 1952, could not be described as a diphtheria free year, there were only three cases, all adults, none of whom had been immunised. It is not surprising, therefore, in view of the extremely low incidence of the disease, that many parents, indeed far too many parents, are completely apathetic about protecting their children. Such an attitude, however, ignores the fact that our present immunity is the reward for the efforts of previous years. A continuity of this steadily increasing apathy brings with it a grave danger of a recurrence on a substantial scale of this deadly and crippling disease, and that this is no idle warning is proved by experience elsewhere.

Although the essential propaganda and organisation of the immunisation scheme is the responsibility of the County Health Department, very valuable co-operation is provided by the family doctors who, in fact, carried out 55 per cent of the immunisation of the "under fives". Practically all the reinforcement injections, some 5,650, were carried out in the schools by the school doctors.

Vaccination. 2,546 "under fives" were vaccinated during 1953. The following table shows that the percentage still falls short of that obtaining in the days of compulsion, i.e., 40 per cent.

1950	...	26%	1952	...	36%
1951	...	36%	1953	...	37%

The vast majority of these vaccinations are carried out by the family doctors who are paid a fee of 5/- for the record of each vaccination carried out.

This position gives rise to anxiety, and efforts must continue to be made to increase the rate of vaccination in infants.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION 1953.

District.	Total primary immunisations, 1953		Total reinforcements 1953	Total Live Births 1952
	0-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.		
RURAL.				
Axbridge	195	45	307	336
Bathavon	195	46	204	269
Bridgwater	182	46	311	318
Chard	115	22	80	193
Clutton	141	18	299	238
Dulverton	53	20	37	74
Frome	96	4	126	175
Langport	147	19	223	199
Long Ashton	181	28	327	340
Shepton Mallet	85	10	114	156
Taunton	220	35	199	321
Wellington	83	16	93	134
Wells	74	17	180	176
Williton	127	6	106	151
Wincanton	189	12	231	271
Yeovil	256	12	241	331
Totals	2339	356	3078	3682
URBAN.				
Bridgwater	237	86	230	400
Burnham	81	22	97	146
Chard	38	—	2	72
Clevedon	69	13	85	125
Crewkerne	45	11	53	57
Frome	127	3	212	177
Glastonbury	44	—	48	74
Ilminster	40	5	31	40
Keynsham	49	3	141	116
Minehead	55	4	46	74
Norton Radstock	113	11	139	191
Portishead	51	21	66	81
Shepton Mallet	40	—	62	85
Street	77	1	66	66
Taunton	253	16	360	477
Watchet	31	1	15	37
Wellington	62	6	25	110
Wells	42	9	112	84
Weston-super-Mare	276	54	295	456
Yeovil	279	52	485	357
Totals	2009	318	2570	3225
County Totals	4348	674	5648	6907

VACCINATION.

Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in the year ended 31st December, 1953.

RURAL DISTRICTS

Age groups.	Under 1		1		2 to 4		5 to 14		15 or over		Totals	
	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
Axbridge	76	1	6	—	7	2	—	6	12	30	101	39
Bathavon	63	—	4	—	9	1	9	6	4	23	89	30
Bridgwater	69	—	8	—	4	2	5	—	6	22	92	24
Chard	94	—	3	—	4	1	2	3	5	15	108	19
Clutton	24	—	6	—	1	2	4	2	9	13	44	17
Dulverton	35	—	1	—	2	—	1	1	3	12	42	13
Frome	40	—	5	—	4	—	—	4	2	11	51	15
Langport	98	—	4	—	4	1	—	1	2	17	108	19
Long Ashton	154	—	6	—	3	—	8	7	12	26	183	33
Shepton Mallet	30	—	6	—	1	—	3	1	1	1	41	2
Taunton	106	—	6	1	3	3	1	6	4	26	120	36
Wellington	61	—	4	—	3	—	2	2	2	3	72	5
Wells	35	—	2	—	5	1	—	1	1	6	43	8
Williton	83	1	2	1	6	2	8	9	2	30	101	43
Wincanton	120	—	9	—	4	2	6	5	6	31	145	38
Yecovil	190	—	13	1	15	—	6	1	4	49	228	51
Totals	1278	2	85	3	75	17	55	55	75	315	1568	392

URBAN DISTRICTS

Age groups.	Under 1		1		2 to 4		5 to 14		15 or over		Totals	
	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
Bridgwater	49	—	3	—	1	1	2	7	12	36	67	44
Burnham	46	—	5	—	3	—	3	10	8	35	65	45
Chard	30	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	5	34	5
Clevedon	87	—	3	—	1	—	2	2	2	10	95	12
Crewkerne	44	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	7	45	10
Frome	42	—	4	1	6	—	3	2	12	24	67	27
Glastonbury	30	—	4	—	3	—	3	—	—	2	40	2
Ilminster	34	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	2	5	41	5
Keynsham	27	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	3	5	33	7
Minhead	55	—	4	1	6	1	1	6	11	14	77	22
Norton Radstock	23	—	4	—	4	—	2	—	8	12	41	12
Portishead	13	—	1	—	1	—	1	5	18	16	34	21
Shepton Mallet	18	—	2	—	1	—	1	2	6	4	28	6
Street	7	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	9	5
Taunton	141	1	2	—	8	2	5	10	22	57	178	70
Watchet	12	—	2	—	—	—	3	1	2	1	19	2
Wellington	36	—	1	—	4	—	6	4	6	11	53	15
Wells	14	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	1	8	18	10
Weston-super-Mare	103	—	7	1	5	1	4	18	21	63	140	83
Yecovil	175	—	12	—	11	2	11	5	8	40	217	47
Totals	986	1	61	3	61	11	49	75	144	360	1301	450
County Totals	2264	3	146	6	136	28	104	130	219	675	2869	842

P. = Primary Vaccination.

R. = Re-vaccination.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Service in Somerset continues to run through the two voluntary organisations, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society, with the exception of the one sitting-case ambulance at Winscombe, and the agency arrangements with the Bristol and Bath City Councils.

At 31st December the total number of vehicles operating in the County Service was 75, as follows:—

	At S.J.A.B.	At B.R.C.S.	S.C.C.		
	Stations.	Stations.	Station.	Reserve.	Total.
Ambulances	30	12	—	3	45
Sitting-case Ambulances ...	5	3	1	—	9
Cars	10	10	—	1	21
Totals ...	45	25	1	4	75

The calls on the service continue to increase and there is as yet no indication that the peak demand has been reached. The following table gives the position for 1952 and 1953:—

	Patients.		Average distance travelled per patient.	
1952.	Journeys.	Miles.		
Ambulances	32,487	371,799	11.44	
Sitting-case Ambulances ...	20,461	172,666	8.44	
Cars	49,881	450,509	9.03	
Hospital Car Service	6,774	57,386	8.47	
Private Hire	11,522	106,834	9.28	
All vehicles	121,125	1,159,194	9.57	
1953.				
Ambulances	33,935	384,714	11.34	
Sitting-case Ambulances ...	26,143	202,850	7.76	
Cars	59,583	493,529	8.28	
Hospital Car Service	6,427	53,360	8.30	
Private Hire	7,695	62,341	8.10	
All vehicles	133,783	1,196,794	8.95	

These figures show that although the number of patients carried during the year increased by just over 10 per cent the total mileage travelled by all vehicles was only approximately $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent above that for 1952. The average distance travelled per patient in 1953 is in every instance less than that for 1952. This is a trend worthy of note and one which can only be achieved by efficient control and the full co-operation of both ambulance station and control personnel.

Radio Control. The three month trial period in the use of two-way radio communication in the Service commenced on 1st August. For this, two fixed stations were established—one at Charterhouse-on-Mendip where advantage has been taken of the mast already used by the police, and the other at Culmhead where a building has been rented from the Ministry of Works, and an aerial has been mounted on the top of a water tower. Both these stations are operated remotely via a Post

Office land line from the Ambulance Group Offices/Stations at Weston-super-Mare and Taunton respectively. Twenty vehicles were equipped with mobile units and these were distributed as follows:—

Group 1—Taunton.				Group 2—Weston-super-Mare.	
2 Ambulances	...	Taunton B.R.C.S.		3 Ambulances	Weston-s.-Mare S.J.A.B.
1 Ambulance	...	Bridgwater S.J.A.B.		1 Ambulance	Clevedon S.J.A.B.
1 Ambulance	...	Minehead S.J.A.B.			
2 Cars	...	Taunton B.R.C.S.		2 Sitting-case Amb.	Weston-s.-Mare S.J.A.B.
1 Car	...	Bridgwater S.J.A.B.		1 Car	Weston-s.-Mare S.J.A.B.
1 Car	...	Minehead S.J.A.B.		1 Sitting-case Amb.	Winscombe S.C.C.
1 Car	...	Wellington S.J.A.B.		1 Sitting-case Amb.	Clevedon S.J.A.B.
Group 3—Glastonbury.					
1 Ambulance	...	...	...	Glastonbury S.J.A.B.	
1 Sitting-case Ambulance	...	...	...	Glastonbury S.J.A.B.	

It will be appreciated that some time elapsed before either the control or the vehicle personnel could be considered really efficient in the use of the equipment, but even so the results of the three months' test period were both interesting and encouraging. The effects of the use of wireless upon the Ambulance Service may be summed up as follows:—

- (a) It enables the nearest ambulance to be directed to an emergency immediately, and, in effect, converts each vehicle so equipped into a mobile station. A car travelling in the vicinity of an accident can also be diverted so that the driver can render first aid pending the arrival of an ambulance.
- (b) In cases of serious injury or of sudden illness the control officer is able to "brief" the hospital staff as to the nature of the emergency, thus enabling advance preparations to be made and precious time to be saved.
- (c) It gives a feeling of confidence and security both to the control staff and to drivers and ensures greater efficiency.

During the trial period the twenty vehicles equipped with radio carried approximately half of the total number of patients conveyed and travelled approximately 42 per cent of the distance of all ambulance station vehicles. Though it may be early to form definite conclusions it would appear that the use of radio over the long term will help to reduce both capital expenditure and running costs in that it enables more use to be made of every vehicle equipped.

It has therefore been agreed that the use of radio should be extended during 1954. This will take place in two stages and arrangements are being made. Soon after 1st April it is proposed to connect the Ambulance Group Office at Glastonbury with the present fixed station at Charterhouse and at the same time to equip a further ten vehicles with mobile units. Later in the year a third fixed station will be provided for the Yeovil area and another ten vehicles will be equipped.

Staff. As has previously been mentioned, the volume of work continues to increase. This factor, coupled with the knowledge that fewer volunteers are available to assist during the day-time, has resulted in a slight increase in the number of paid staff at the main ambulance stations. The help given by volunteers is still considerable, but it is disappointing to note that in some areas there is evidence that this help is diminishing and that in consequence the paid staff have to be prepared to undertake additional duties. The introduction of radio communication will assist in maintaining the number of paid staff at a reasonable level. During the year because of the volume of new industry being introduced special consideration has had to be given to the needs of the Portishead

area, and, as a result, authority has been obtained for the appointment of two additional members on the staff of the Clevedon Station. Unfortunately, however, because of the labour situation in the area and housing difficulties it has not been possible to make either appointment. In these rather difficult circumstances the radio equipped vehicles have been of great value.

The position at 31st December was as follows:—

S.C.C.—Winscombe: 1 driver/attendant.

S.J.A.B.				B.R.C.S.			
	Station Officer.	Head Driver.	Driver/Attendant.		Station Officer.	Head Driver.	Driver/Attendant.
Weston-super-Mare ...	1	1	9	Taunton ...	1	1	9
Clevedon ...	—	1	4	Yeovil ...	—	1	5
Minehead ...	1	—	4	Castle Cary ...	—	1	2
Glastonbury ...	—	1	4	Shepton Mallet ...	—	—	2
Bridgwater ...	—	1	2	Farrington Gurney ...	—	—	1
Norton-Radstock ...	—	1	2				
Wellington ...	—	—	1				
Clevedon (authorised but not yet filled)...	—	—	2				
Total S.J.A.B. ...	2	5	28	Total B.R.C.S. ...	1	3	19

TOTAL (all Stations) ...	3	Station Officers
	8	Head Drivers
	48	Driver/Attendants (includes two vacancies)
	59	

Training. During the year the South-West Region of the National Association of Ambulance Officers organised a competition for ambulance personnel regularly employed in the day-to-day service. Teams consisted of three members. It was decided that a team should be entered to represent Somerset and in a County Eliminating Competition held on Saturday, 29th August, at the Shire Hall, Taunton, the team from Minehead S.J.A.B. won. Teams from the counties of Cornwall, Dorset, Oxford, Somerset and Wiltshire, and from the County Boroughs of Bristol, Exeter, Gloucester and Plymouth took part in the Regional Competition on Saturday, 26th September. The competition was won by the Somerset team with a total mark of 376½ out of a possible 450.

Premises. There have been no changes in premises occupied. At Castle Cary, where a new Ambulance Station is to be erected, progress has been slow, but it is expected that 1954 will see its completion. At Glastonbury, little progress has been made but it is hoped that present negotiations will result in the purchase of a site on which an ambulance station will be built.

Vehicles. During the year the following vehicles have been delivered to ambulance stations:—

- 2 Morris NVS Ambulances with Appleyard bodies.
- 1 Morris LC5 Ambulance with Appleyard body.
- 2 Bedford A2Z Ambulances with Lomas bodies.
- 2 Morris PV Sitting-case Ambulances with Appleyard bodies.
- 1 Austin A/40 car.
- 2 Ford Consul cars.

With the exception of the two sitting-case ambulances and one car all have replaced vehicles now withdrawn from service. The new Bedford chassis is undoubtedly an improvement on the previous one and the two ambulances delivered during the year are proving very satisfactory. Whilst there is now a tendency to utilise the sitting-case ambulance for the conveyance of sitting-cases, the cars have been of great assistance, and the Ford Consul cars have been found particularly suitable for ambulance work. At the end of the year two of the A/40 cars and three of the Ford Prefect cars had each completed more than 110,000 miles.

Hospital Car Service and Private Hire Service. The use of both these services for the conveyance of sitting cases has continued. Although the number of patients carried is smaller there still is, and probably always will be, a limited use for both in Somerset.

Rail Travel. We have continued to make the utmost use of the facilities offered by British Railways for the conveyance of patients, and during the year a total of 1,321 patients travelled for the greater part of their journey by rail. The following figures show that rail travel has saved approximately 42,000 road miles by ambulance, and 220,000 miles by sitting-case vehicle:—

					Number conveyed.	Total Rail miles.
Stretcher	...	...	...	...	176	21,267
Sitting	...	...	...	...	1,145	110,752
					<hr/> 1,321 <hr/>	<hr/> 132,019 <hr/>

Civil Defence. The training of volunteers for the Ambulance Section has continued during the year and members have taken part in exercises in most districts. The number of volunteers at 31st December was approximately 410 (130 male and 280 female).

I am able to report that as previously only a few complaints have been made during the year, whilst a number of letters of appreciation have been received. The relationship with the hospitals and with the medical profession generally is excellent and full co-operation continues between the Somerset Service and that of other Authorities.

PREVENTION, CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

Tuberculosis.

The Senior Chest Physician has given the following report:—

As is general throughout England the notification of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis showed a further diminution. Figures for the last four years are given below. At the same time it will be noted that the number of contacts seen is rising steadily, which is most satisfactory.

Year.					New Pulmonary Notifications.	Contacts seen.
1950	...	...	...	...	456	1,318
1951	...	...	...	...	449	1,364
1952	...	...	...	...	422	1,424
1953	...	...	...	...	396	1,587

This increase is undoubtedly the result of the scheme mentioned in last year's report, whereby once a new case of pulmonary tuberculosis has been found, the responsible health visitor has to make a return to the central T.B. Administrative Office giving the names of all contacts and whether X-rayed, and in the case of children, whether Tuberculin negative, and if so whether B.C.G. has been given.

Employment Conditions. When cases of active tubercle are found, apart from the X-raying of contacts, investigations are made into the working conditions and surroundings.

After Care. Following upon discharge from Chest Hospital patients are followed up closely at chest clinics, and when they become fit for work consultations with the local Disablement Rehabilitation Officer frequently results in the finding of suitable employment.

The attendance of ex-patients and contacts is very satisfactory provided that adequate clerical assistance is available at chest clinics to ensure that "Reminder" notices are sent where patients fail to keep their appointments.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis not notified during life. The usual contact routine is instituted when cases of this kind are discovered and all contacts are invited to come to the Chest Clinic for X-ray.

Early Cases amongst Children and Case Finding Surveys. Apart from the usual annual visit to all areas of the Mass Radiography Unit—schools are included increasingly in these visits. In addition, when cases of Tuberculosis are found amongst the teachers or adult staff of schools, a Tuberculosis Survey of all the children is carried out and reactors are X-rayed.

B.C.G. continues to be offered for all Tuberculin negative children who are contacts.

Transfer of the Weston-super-Mare and North Somerset Area to the care of Bristol Clinical Area Administration. When the National Health Service came into being in 1948, a scheme for clinical areas was adopted, and to implement this, Bristol took over the provision of a Chest Physician for this area in the Summer of 1953. In the main, therefore, patients from the North Somerset area are now admitted to Ham Green Hospital, Bristol, rather than the South Somerset Chest Hospitals as heretofore, though we still take cases from these areas if there is a waiting list at Ham Green. Bath has for some time been taking patients from the Bath, Radstock, Shepton Mallet and Frome areas into Winsley or Bath Chest Hospitals and this summer Dr. Osmaston, the Somerset Chest Physician for these areas, was transferred to the Bath Hospital Management Committee.

These changes have eased the demand for beds in the South Somerset Chest Hospitals very considerably and in consequence we usually now have vacancies and are able to admit patients as soon as the diagnosis is made.

Diminution in the Incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis amongst Women. In the latter half of 1953 this became very manifest. Enquiry shows a similar occurrence in other parts of the region, as a result it is now quite common to have from 12—18 empty female beds at Quantock Chest Hospital and 2—3 at Taunton Chest Hospital.

Chard Chest Hospital. The demand for beds here remains slight and an average bed occupation of 11.41 men and 13.39 women only has occurred during the year. In view of this and vacancies elsewhere the question of closing this hospital in the near future will have to be considered.

In this respect it is most noticeable these days that patients prefer to be admitted to beds in Taunton whereas in the past the popular chest hospital was Quantock. The reason for this is undoubtedly the greater facilities for easy visiting when the patient is in hospital in a town.

Chest Surgery. Unfortunately the Thoracic Surgeon for this area was taken ill early in 1953 and off work for six months. Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, did what they could to keep the operation list moving but a considerable slowing up occurred, particularly amongst the men. The Thoracic Surgeon is now back at work and it is hoped that the length of the male waiting list will now lessen. It is, however, most noticeable that the modern tendency for surgical operations to replace the other methods of lung relaxation, such as pneumothorax treatment, continues to increase. This, in conjunction with bed rest and the use of modern chemotherapy such as Streptomycin, P.A.S. and Isoniazid are producing the most satisfactory results in quite advanced cases, but it should be realised that patients now spend longer than before in hospital.

Collapse treatment by the use of artificial pneumothorax and pneumoperitoneum has been continued and the cases dealt with are shown in the following table:—

					At dispensary or home of patient.	At institutions.	Total.
Primary inductions	...	...	...	...	—	79	79
Refills	...	...	...	...	4,878	2,197	7,075

The new cases seen numbered 4,298 and were classified as follows:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—

T.B. Negative	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	166
T.B. Positive Stage 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
T.B. Positive Stage 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
T.B. Positive Stage 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
								—
								305

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—

Bones and Joints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Abdominal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other Organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Peripheral Glands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
								—
								28

Not Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,900
Diagnosis not complete on 31st December, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65

4,298

During 1953 sanatorium treatment was given to 527 cases—an increase of 19 and 788 Milk Grants were made. Shelters in use at the end of the year were 38.

Mass Radiography. The Mass Radiography Unit has again visited various centres in Somerset and the results of the surveys for the year 1953 are given below.

The total number of attendances were 31,047 of which 17,951 were male and 13,096 female. This compares with a total attendance of 28,046 in 1952 and of 22,815 in 1951. As a result of the survey, 108 persons (66 male, 42 female) were found to have active tubercular lesions. This works out at about 3.5 per thousand examined. These cases were dealt with by reference of 13 to their own Doctor, 60 to Chest Clinics and 35 by admission to Sanatorium.

In addition to the above, there were 355 (229 male, 126 female) inactive tubercular conditions found and in 202 cases no action was required. Of the remainder, 86 were referred to their own Doctor and 67 are being kept under observation at Chest Clinics. The incidence by age groups of the cases referred to above are shown in the table below.

					Under 15	15—24	25—34	35—44	45—59	60 & over	Total
Active Tuberculosis.											
Male	...	...	...		1	10	9	15	21	10	66
Female	...	...	...		4	12	10	11	4	1	42
Total	...	...	...		5	22	19	26	25	11	108
Inactive Tuberculosis.											
Male	...	...	...		7	21	45	47	81	28	229
Female	...	...	...		3	24	29	16	33	21	126
Total	...	...	...		10	45	74	63	114	49	355

Included in these figures are the attendances of 3,624 school children and full details relating to these are given in my report as Principal School Medical Officer. It is, however, of interest to note that amongst these children there were found 7 active and 14 inactive cases. Of the active cases, 2 were referred to their own Doctor, 4 are being kept under observation at Chest Clinics and 1 was admitted to a sanatorium for treatment.

As is usual with these surveys, a number of non-tubercular conditions were found and this year they amounted to 365. Some of these were of a very serious nature and required immediate treatment.

TABLE VII
Tuberculosis Death Rates

Year.	Phthisis Death rates.			Other Tuberculosis Diseases			Tuberculosis Death-rate.
	Rural.	Urban.	County.	Rural.	Urban.	County.	County.
1945	0.32	0.40	0.36	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.426
1946	0.32	0.39	0.36	0.10	0.05	0.08	0.436
1947	0.29	0.41	0.34	0.11	0.09	0.10	0.443
1948	0.28	0.36	0.32	0.08	0.04	0.06	0.377
1949	0.23	0.37	0.29	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.335
1950	0.19	0.28	0.23	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.275
1951	0.18	0.24	0.21	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.229
1952	0.19	0.21	0.20	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.228
1953	0.13	0.16	0.14	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.157

TABLE VIII

New cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the County during 1953

Age Periods		New cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
1—5	...	3	4	4	1	1	1	0	0
5—10	...	10	6	7	3	}	2	0	0
10—15	...	10	7	6	2		1	0	0
15—20	...	16	22	4	2		13	0	0
20—25	...	32	24	1	2			0	0
25—35	...	42	40	8	3		5	3	1
35—45	...	48	26	3	3	}	7	0	0
45—55	...	47	14	3	3		9	0	0
55—65	...	19	10	2	1		3	0	0
65 and upwards	...	11	5	1	3	2	4	0	2
Totals	...	238	158	40	23	49	21	3	3

TABLE IX
Tuberculosis Notifications and Deaths, 1953

URBAN DISTRICTS	Primary cases notified		Deaths during the year from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Deaths during the year from other varieties of Tuberculosis	RURAL DISTRICTS	Primary cases notified		Deaths during the year from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Deaths during the year from other varieties of Tuberculosis
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.				Pulm.	Non-Pulm.		
Bridgwater ...	28	3	4	1	Axbridge ...	24	6	1	0
Burnham ...	8	0	4	0	Bathavon ...	22	3	5	0
Chard ...	8	2	1	0	Bridgwater ...	14	1	2	1
Clevedon ...	8	1	5	0	Chard ...	10	1	3	0
Crewkerne ...	1	0	1	0	Clutton ...	2	3	0	0
Frome ...	9	1	4	0	Dulverton ...	1	0	1	0
Glastonbury ...	9	1	1	0	Frome ...	8	1	1	0
Ilminster ...	2	0	0	0	Langport ...	14	2	2	0
Keynsham ...	11	0	1	0	Long Ashton ...	15	1	2	0
Minehead ...	2	2	3	0	Shepton Mallet ...	12	0	3	0
Norton-Radstock ...	17	3	0	0	Taunton ...	23	1	5	1
Portishead ...	2	1	0	0	Wellington ...	2	3	0	0
Shepton Mallet...	0	1	1	0	Wells ...	15	2	3	0
Street ...	2	0	2	0	Williton ...	7	2	1	0
Taunton ...	45	9	0	0	Wincanton ...	8	2	1	0
Watchet ...	3	1	1	0	Yeovil ...	10	1	4	1
Wellington ...	9	0	0	0					
Wells ...	7	1	0	1					
Weston-s-Mare ...	24	3	4	0					
Yeovil ...	14	5	4	1					
Totals ...	209	34	36	3	Totals ...	187	29	34	3

TABLE X
Admissions to Sanatoria during 1953

Sanatorium.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Quantock ...	70	54	—	124
Chard ...	14	14	—	28
Taunton ...	23	36	—	59
Musgrove Park ...	74	—	—	74
Compton Bishop ...	—	—	54	54
Bath Orthopædic Hospital ...	4	9	2	15
Other non-county beds ...	100	69	4	173
	285	182	60	527

TABLE XI

Chest Clinic Attendances

	Total Chest Clinic attendances.		
	1951.	1952.	1953.
Bath (County)	960	1,230	1,337
Bridgwater	3,424	3,331	4,645
Bristol	621	520	484
Chard	1,084	1,035	986
Clevedon	1,081	868	573
Glastonbury	377	385	396
Minehead	912	1,235	1,335
Radstock	830	756	854
Shepton Mallet	208	197	204
Taunton	9,687	8,918	7,663
Weston-super-Mare	5,156	4,969	5,026
Wincanton	209	216	251
Yeovil	1,103	1,510	1,571
Total ...	25,652	25,170	25,325

Quantock Chest Hospital. The Medical Superintendent has furnished the following report:—

The Chest Hospital has continued to have allocated 111 beds (66 male and 45 female). Of these 44 were not in use at 31st December, 1953; (10 were closed for lack of staff, and 34 were unoccupied). The average occupancy for the year was 82.6 compared with 90.2 for 1952. The average stay for male patients was 2·3 days and female patients 2·1 days. This is an average of 34½ weeks for each patient.

Admissions for the year Men 70. Women 54. Total 124.

Discharges do. Men 69. Women 67.

Deaths do. Men 1. Women 1. Total 138.

(Compared with 146
for 1952)

The mainstay of treatment continued to be bed rest and fresh air, helped by chemotherapy with P.A.S., I.N.H., and injections of streptomycin.

Collapse therapy continued to be used.

Artificial pneumothorax inductions numbered 18

Pneumoperitoneum do. 24

Number of refills given:

In-patients 1,128

Out-patients 95

———— 1,223

There were 13 cases transferred to other units for thoracoscopy; adhesion section being possible in nine cases.

Patients were admitted from Frenchay for convalescence and physiotherapy following thoracoplasty or resection operations. These numbered 10.

The number of radiological examinations was	...	...	...	...	...	1,349
The number of physiotherapy treatments was	...	...	...	...	...	6,175

Chard Chest Hospital. During the year the number of patients admitted were 14 male and 14 female, while discharges totalled 16 male and 21 female. There were 3 male deaths.

X-ray Department. 427 films were taken and 364 screenings were made.

Collapse treatment was on a smaller scale as there were fewer patients. There was 1 induction and 418 refills. Two patients had surgical treatment.

The outstanding thing about 1953 was that whereas previously throughout the period we have had a waiting list of patients for beds, this time we had empty beds throughout the whole year. It is hoped that the days of the waiting list are over.

Compton Bishop Children's Home. During the year 33 boys and 21 girls were admitted and of these 27 boys and 16 girls were under 10 years of age. The average stay for "definite" (notified) cases was 27 weeks, and for observation cases 24 weeks. The discharges numbered 45, 27 boys and 18 girls, who will be kept under regular supervision at the County Clinics.

Medical Comforts Scheme.

This scheme has continued to fulfil a very useful function by providing equipment for the greater comfort of patients who are nursed at home and indeed in making possible their earlier discharge from hospital, thus freeing much needed in-patient accommodation.

The type of apparatus supplied covers a very wide range and increasing use is made of this very valuable ancillary service.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society continue to administer the scheme on behalf of the Somerset County Council which subsidises these organisations in respect of administrative costs, purchase, maintenance, storage and transport of equipment. Its success is due in no small measure to the efforts of the voluntary workers, to whom I pay tribute once again for their willing co-operation with the Health Department centrally, and with members of the County Nursing staff with whom they work in such close relationship.

The number of depots in existence are as follows:—

British Red Cross Society	...	...	12 main depots and 50 sub-depots.
St. John Ambulance Brigade	...	...	10 main depots and 23 sub-depots.

Convalescent Homes. The provision of non-medical convalescence continues at roughly the same level as for previous years. Financial considerations have always to some extent limited the scope of this type of work and within these limits valuable convalescent care is provided for short periods. It is particularly valuable to the elderly who find a period of convalescence helpful in recovering from their illnesses. One is often perturbed that the service cannot be extended because of costs and one is well aware that there are many instances where convalescence would do good but one has to be very selective in the cases dealt with. I hope that next year with the increase in

the amount available for convalescence we shall be able to deal with all those needy cases which come to our notice. I think one may say that the small expenditure involved in this way is more than worth while in the amount of good it does to the individual and the amount of happiness and help it provides in difficult cases. This scheme provides for repayment where the financial circumstances of the individual warrant it but many cases, particularly the elderly, are ill able to pay anything. The cost of the care varies considerably from Home to Home.

Convalescent care is also provided for tubercular patients at Papworth Village Settlement and the British Legion Village and for such patients no charge is made.

Epileptics and Spastics.

The Ministry of Health have asked for a statement to be made this year giving such information as is available on the incidence of epilepsy and cerebral palsy.

It would, of course, be difficult to give a complete picture of the problem with regard to epilepsy, as normally, only a small proportion of cases ever come to our notice.

We have, however, two main sources of information, limited though they are, to which we have turned. These are the district nurses and the Neuro-psychiatric Department of Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton.

The district nurses normally give information relative to the under-fives only. They provide valuable means of keeping in touch with the current position. From special returns received recently we have been able to build up some figures relating to all ages, but it must be emphasised that ordinarily nurses refer to us only the under-fives. The figures are by no means exhaustive.

The Neuro-psychiatric unit has given the attendances of epileptic school children during 1953 and other details which may be of interest.

Information on epileptics is also derived from Child Guidance Clinics to which cases are referred by General Practitioners and others.

When these children reach school age they are dealt with in two streams, the educable and the ineducable. The educable, if their fits are well controlled by suitable treatment, go to ordinary schools and live a normal life, but if not they may be dealt with in special Colonies for epileptics.

The ineducable are left at home where they may be given the option of attending an Occupation Centre daily or if this is unsuitable and home circumstances warrant it, they may be given placement in an appropriate Colony.

After school age, those who have been to ordinary schools enter normal employment suited to their capacities. Colonists may remain in their Colonies or, if sufficient improvement has been effected, they may be discharged home to be employed from there.

The older unemployable epileptic is offered diversional therapy in his own home by the Welfare Department of the Local Authority, in the scheme arranged through the British Red Cross Society.

The returns from district nurses show that at the end of 1953 or thereabouts there were 166 epileptics known to the nurses. The classification of these cases is as follows:—

0—5.	6—10.	11—15.	16—25.	25 upwards.
24	36	23	22	61

Many of these cases are already known in detail centrally and are subject to varying degrees of supervision, mainly in respect of school children.

The following is the detail obtained from the Neuro-psychiatric Department of Musgrove Park Hospital. This does not help a great deal in relation to incidence but does give interesting information as to the sources of reference.

Epileptics seen during 1953 at Neuro-psychiatric Department, Musgrove Park Hospital.

Under 5 years of age	...	...	17	(9 males, 8 females)
5—15 years of age	...	...	131	(71 males, 60 females)
Over 15 years of age	...	...	147	(66 males, 81 females)

Of the first group, 3 suffered from major attacks, 5 from minor, 7 from minor and major, and 2 from other types of epileptic attacks. In the second group the figures are 46 major attacks, 31 minor, 44 combined and 10 other types; and in the last group 55 major, 27 minor, 57 combined, and 8 others.

The cases in the first two groups were referred in a variety of ways such as

by pædiatricians and other consultants
by County Council Child Guidance Clinics
by general practitioners
by juvenile and other courts

The greatest numbers came through Child Guidance Clinics and general practitioners. There is no detail available as regards the last group.

The Welfare Section have 11 epileptics in Colonies and 6 in their own institutions. They have also had 10 cases referred to them as handicapped and in need of help and there must be many more of whom we are unaware who are in this latter category. In fact it is estimated that about one-fifth of all cases are handicapped to the extent of needing assistance.

As regards spastics, here we endeavour to maintain liaison with pædiatricians of local hospitals and with the Spastics Assessment Clinic in Bristol; other cases come to our notice from district nurses as soon after birth as possible, and from Orthopædic Clinics.

The returns from all sources to date may be classified into the following age groups:—

0—5.	6—10.	11—15.	16 and over.
40	48	48	72

The figure of 72 adults is necessarily incomplete as it is compiled from various records and there are none available in respect of those older persons who have overcome their disabilities sufficiently to be independent economic units.

With regard to those cases under 16 the facilities provided by the education authorities are used where the children are deemed to be educable and where they are considered ineducable they are kept constantly under review so that whatever capacities they may develop shall be trained as fully as possible.

As they grow older children who can benefit from specialised training are given every opportunity through the Local Education Authority and through the Ministry of Labour to acquire a trade or occupation. Those who, by reason of their condition are unable to achieve this, are catered for either through the Mental Health or the Welfare Services of the Local Authority, thus enabling them to live as full a life as possible.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

This Service continues to be run by a County Organiser with four Area Organisers and one Assistant, with the equivalent of five full-time clerks in the area offices. The County Organiser is also responsible for the Taunton area. During the year 9,403 visits have been paid to householders by the organisers.

The W.V.S. and other voluntary workers give invaluable help in many districts, and are responsible for the running of the Service in the towns of Burnham-on-Sea, Bruton, Chard, Frome, Glastonbury, Keynsham, Minehead, Street, Wellington, Watchet, Wiveliscombe and Whitchurch, and the rural district of Long Ashton. The service is not evenly distributed throughout the county, the supply normally following the demand. Exceptions to this are in the towns of Minehead, Wincanton and Ilminster, and the rural area of Yeovil, where it is not possible to engage enough suitable women owing to other demands for local labour.

1,813 new cases were visited during the year and at the end of December, 1953, the following cases were receiving help:—

Old people	...	...	...	...	...	847
Chronic cases	...	...	...	...	...	267
T.B. cases	...	...	...	...	...	42
Temporary cases	...	...	...	...	...	93
Maternity cases	...	...	...	...	...	39
(including ante- and post-natal cases).						

Maternity and many other cases, particularly where there are small children in the house, need help for longer hours than old age and chronic cases, but are normally of short duration. Cases of old age and chronic illness frequently need help for a few hours weekly only, but may continue indefinitely. The bulk of the work of the Home Help Service lies in the homes of the aged and chronic sick. The majority of the old people helped live entirely alone, and a surprising number have no near relatives: others have outworn the patience of their relatives and friends. It is sometimes necessary to send two Home Helps in to make a house habitable for an old person whose living conditions have deteriorated through no reason other than infirmity and old age. The problem of the aged is most acute in the towns of Weston-super-Mare, Frome, Yeovil, Clevedon and Midsomer Norton.

Of other chronic cases covered by the Service, arthritis presents the greatest problem. Help is being sent to assist 88 patients under 70 years of age suffering from this complaint, and 63 aged over 70. For the young and middle-aged, the only alternative to the Home Help Service would appear to be a bed in a hospital for the chronic sick for the remainder of their lives.

Of the cases of tuberculosis attended, the majority are those discharged from sanatoria, but still in need of rest, or those who can be treated by rest at home, and who thus avoid sanatorium treatment.

Forty-four of the cases covered at the end of 1953 were Registered Blind Persons, the majority of whom live alone.

Maternity bookings were 672 in 1953 compared with 671 in 1952. Of these 101 were cancelled for various reasons, mainly because of expense. A normal maternity case is of a fortnight's duration but none the less many householders feel that the assessment on maternity cases is unduly high and seek alternative help. We feel that if such help can be found the Service is fulfilling its obligations and helping those who genuinely have no other help available, but complaints have been made by District Nurses in some areas that the help found by the householder has been neither

reliable nor adequate. The increased Home Confinement Grant may ease this situation somewhat, but the fact remains that many weekly wage earners are receiving very high rates of pay, and fail to realise that an increased income means increased responsibilities.

The cost of the Service has risen during the year owing to two wage awards and improved holiday pay and sick pay to Home Helps.

At the end of December, 1953, there were 271 part-time and 211 full-time Home Helps employed throughout the county. The improved conditions of service have enabled us to continue to employ and to engage women who are of high standard. It is not always appreciated that many of the householders to whom help is sent are themselves experts at the tasks which the Home Help is asked to undertake for them.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Administration. At their meeting on the 9th June, 1953, the Health Committee re-appointed the Mental Health Sub-Committee and again delegated to them all their powers under the Mental Deficiency and Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts. The administrative and executive duties involved are my responsibility and are referred to in a later paragraph of this report. I should, however, like to say that the degree of success which has attended the development of the Services since July, 1948, would not now be recorded but for the assistance I have received and the wise and unfailing counsel which the relationship between the Chairman of the Mental Health Sub-Committee and my senior officers, has made both possible and readily acceptable.

Mental Deficiency. The following table indicates the number as at the 31st December, 1953, of patients for whom supervision and guardianship has been arranged during the year under review:—

	Age 16 and over.		Age under 16.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Statutory Supervision	301	185	167	95	748
Voluntary Supervision	160	208	8	5	381
Guardianship	91	87	1	7	186

The following statement relating to Mental Defectives within the County as at the 31st December, 1953, is in the form required to be forwarded to the Board of Control and to the South Western Regional Hospital Board, each year:—

MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

1. Particulars of cases reported during 1953.

(a) Cases at 31st December ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with." Action taken on reports by—								
(i) Local Education Authorities on children—								
(1) While at school or liable to attend school ...					22	12	—	—
(2) On leaving special schools					1	1	8	11
(3) On leaving ordinary schools					70	29	—	—
(ii) Police or by Courts					1	—	5	—
(iii) Other sources					3	2	4	2
(b) Cases reported but not regarded at 31st December as defectives "subject to be dealt with" on any ground ...					3	1	3	10
(c) Cases reported but not confirmed as defectives by 31st December and thus excluded from (a) or (b)					—	—	5	6
Total number of cases reported during the year					100	45	25	29

2. Disposal of Cases.

(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number—								
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision					92	42	10	12
(ii) Placed under Guardianship					—	—	3	1
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"					—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Institutions					5	2	4	—
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number—					69	45	465	491
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision					3	1	2	7
(ii) Action unnecessary					—	—	6	9
Total of Item 2					100	45	25	29

3. Classification of defectives in the Community as at 31.12.53

(a) Cases included in item 2(a)(i) to (iii) above in need of institutional care—								
(1) In urgent need of institutional care—								
(i) "cot and chair" cases					—	—	—	—
(ii) ambulant low grade cases					—	—	—	—
(iii) medium grade cases					—	—	—	—
(iv) high grade cases					—	—	—	—
(2) Not in urgent need of institutional care—					3	2	—	—
(i) "cot and chair" cases					5	1	—	1
(ii) ambulant low grade cases					—	—	2	1
(iii) medium grade cases					1	—	2	—
(iv) high grade cases					—	—	—	—
Total of Item 3(a)					14	4	6	3

During 1953.

Total cases on Authority's registers as at 31.12.53

Under age 16

Aged 16 and over

Under age 16

Aged 16 and over

M.

F.

M.

F.

M.

F.

M.

F.

						Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
						M.	F.	M.	F.
3. Classification of defectives in the Community as at 31.12.53 (continued)—									
(3) (b) Of the cases included in items 2(a)(i) and (ii) and 2(b)(i) overleaf, number considered suitable for—									
(i)	occupation centre	...	...	...	...	69	44	12	27
(ii)	industrial centre	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iii)	home training	...	...	...	...	5	14	3	8
Total of Item 3(b)						74	58	15	35
(e) Of the cases included in item 3(b) number receiving training as at 31.12.53.									
(i)	in occupation centre	...	...	...	...	47	35	11	21
(ii)	in industrial centre	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iii)	at home	...	...	...	...	—	11	1	6
Total of Item 3(e)						47	46	12	27

4. Number of Mental Defectives who were in Institutions, under Community Care (including Voluntary Supervision) or in "Places of Safety" on 1st January, 1953, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1953.

	M.	F.	T.
(a) Ceased to be under care	142	62	204
(b) Died, removed from area, or lost sight of	21	19	40
Total	163	81	244

5. Of the total number of mental defectives under Supervision or Guardianship or no longer under care.

(a) Number who have given birth to children while unmarried during 1953	...	...	11
(b) Number who have married during 1953	...	...	...
		Males	Females
		—	1

Guardianship. The Local Health Authority meet the need of patients by way of weekly grants in all cases of guardianship where this cannot be undertaken by the National Assistance Board. In addition, clothing and footwear is provided irrespective of the help given by the Board.

The policy of arranging Guardianship in every case where the patient can be maintained in the community remains unaltered, and community care is provided in this way for many patients who would otherwise have to be admitted to institutions. It is found that the pressure upon hospital beds has, to a fair measure, been eased by the Authority's arrangements.

Occupation Centres. The following gives an indication of the number of registered pupils (including "out-workers") at each of the Occupation Centres as at the 31st December, 1953, together with brief details of the surrounding districts from which the pupils are conveyed each day:—

Centres.				Pupils.	District (other than town).
Bridgwater	...	...	...	20	Spaxton, North Petherton and district.
Coxley (Mid-Somerset)	...	...	...	11	
Ilminster and District	...	...	...	12	Crewkerne, South Petherton, Chard and district.
Radstock	...	...	...	33	Shepton Mallet, Clutton, Norton St. Philip and districts.
Taunton	...	...	...	19	Wellington, Milverton, etc.
Weston-super-Mare	...	...	...	14	Cheddar, Congresbury, etc.
Yeovil	...	...	...	16	Sherborne, Henstridge, etc.
Other Centres.					
Bath	...	...	...	4	Batheaston, etc. (Bath L.H.A.).
Bristol	...	...	...	1	Portishead (Bristol L.H.A.).
Trowbridge	...	...	...	1	(Wiltshire L.H.A.).
Total				131	(Total as at 31st December, 1952 — 107).

By the end of the year, arrangements had already been made for ten further children to be admitted to the Occupation Centres at Radstock and Weston-super-Mare early in the new year.

A steady year of progress has been made at each of the Occupation Centres and I am happy to report that the new Centre established at Coxley, near Wells, to serve the Mid-Somerset area has now settled down satisfactorily and there is every reason to believe that it will become a large and useful unit. A local Committee, on the same lines and with similar terms of reference as other Occupation Centre Committees, has been formed to assist in the general management of the Centre.

The undermentioned table indicates the age grouping of pupils attending the Occupation Centres and those for whom provision is made under the "out-workers" scheme which operates in conjunction with the Centres. Pupils who receive instructional training on this basis are encouraged to attend the Centres as often as they can, particularly on Open Days, at exhibitions, socials, parties and outings of one kind or another. Owing to the high cost of transport it is not possible to arrange for the attendance of these people at the Centres on a regular basis but the scheme itself has possibilities, and its development is the subject of examination by the Somerset Association for Mental Welfare in connection with their Voluntary Visiting scheme. I hope to be able to report further in my next Annual Report.

					Age 16 years or over.		Under 16 years.		Total.
					M.	F.	M.	F.	
At Centres	...	...	...	...	11	21	47	35	114
"Out-workers"	...	...	...	...	1	5	—	11	17
Totals	...	...	...	...	12	26	47	46	131

Employment. The following gives a broad indication of the various types of employment in which patients under Statutory Supervision and Guardianship are engaged in the County:—

OCCUPATION.					Statutory.		Guardianship.		Total. M. & F.
					M.	F.	M.	F.	
Agriculture	...	...	...	...	120	3	11	—	134
Boot repairing	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Building	...	...	...	...	28	—	2	—	30
Catering	...	...	...	...	2	6	—	—	8
Cinema	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
Domestic	...	...	...	...	5	37	—	7	49
Engineering	...	...	...	...	24	—	—	—	24
Factory	...	...	...	...	18	37	—	—	55
Food manufacture	...	...	...	...	12	3	1	—	16
General labouring	...	...	...	...	47	—	—	—	47
Gloving	...	...	...	...	6	6	—	—	12
Hairdressing	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
Hawker	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Laundry	...	...	...	...	1	5	—	—	6
Leather worker	...	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	4
Mining	...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	3
Odd jobs	...	...	...	...	3	—	3	—	6
Painting and Decorating	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Paper Mills	...	...	...	...	6	—	—	—	6
Part-time workers	...	...	...	...	3	1	2	—	6
Shop assistants	...	...	...	...	5	3	—	—	8
Textiles	...	...	...	...	6	19	—	—	25
Window cleaning	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
H.M. Forces (removed from list upon acceptance)	...	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	4
Totals	...	...	...	...	303	122	19	7	451

ANALYSIS.

Gainfully employed	...	...	...	451	Statutory Guardianship	...	...	718
At Occupation Centres	...	...	...	130	Guardianship	...	...	187
Under school leaving age	...	...	...	172				
Unemployable	...	...	...	152				
Total	...	...	...	905			Total	905

During the year 1954 the position will be further analysed so as to show the number of patients under school leaving age who are suitable for Occupation Centres and those who are not suitable.

With very few exceptions the occupations mentioned are unskilled, and records show that in most instances the patient is receiving either wage-for-age remuneration, or is paid the standard rate for the job. Where this is not so, the Visiting Officer, in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour (or Agricultural Wages Committee where applicable) will have arrived at a satisfactory rate of pay having regard to the patient's capabilities.

I understand that, generally speaking, the placement of these people has been less difficult during the past year than was the case formerly, due to the very helpful liaison which now exists between the County Council and the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Licensed Patients. The County Council have continued to supervise through their Mental Health Services some forty-six patients on licence in the County from out-County Institutions, Hospitals and Colonies.

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts. The following cases were dealt with under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1953:—

County Area	Admissions				Total	Other Action
	Certified Cases	Voluntary Cases	Temporary Cases	Section 20/21 Lunacy Act		Advice, etc., Social Histories
Clutton	21	9	3	29	62	56
Frome	14	4	1	6	25	13
Minehead	17	11	—	2	30	4
Wells	24	13	2	11	50	90
Taunton	80	68	5	6	159	224
Weston-super-Mare ...	64	5	—	7	76	67
Wincanton	7	—	4	3	14	34
Yeovil	8	76	1	2	87	72
Total	235	186	16	66	503	560

I do not propose in this report to dwell again upon the urgency of providing for the care of old people suffering from senile dementia and similar illnesses attributable to their age. The problem is well known and needs to be tackled on a national basis. I am happy to record, however, that the efforts of the Tone Vale and Mendip Hospitals Management Committees have done something to alleviate the distress which the problem is causing, by the establishment of "Long-Stay Annexes" connected with the Mental Hospitals to which a number of old people are admitted after an initial period of hospital care.

Mental Health Clinics. The Out-Patient Psychiatric Clinics established by the Tone Vale and Mendip Hospitals at Taunton, Bridgwater, Yeovil, Weston-super-Mare, Minehead, Bath and Wells are attended by the Mental Welfare Officers, as required, and the arrangements made have been very helpful to the Local Health Authority in carrying out their duties under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

After-Care. Responsibility for the after-care of patients who have attended hospital clinics or who have left Mental Hospitals has been undertaken by the County Council whose officers carry out any necessary visitation after consultation with the Medical Officer concerned.

This work is carried out to a greater extent under Section 51 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and in a few cases under the provisions of Section 28 of the Act relating to after-care. The visiting staff carry out much of this work as part of their normal duties.

In addition, the cases of former certified mental defectives are dealt with under this heading, and their names are no longer placed upon the old "voluntary" supervision list.

Ambulances. The Ambulance Service has assisted the Mental Health Services staff in the removal of patients to or from their homes and institutions or hospitals, and the close integration of the two services has contributed to the success of mental health work which has been done during the period under review.

Voluntary Associations. There have been numerous ways in which the Somerset Association for Mental Welfare has assisted the County Council in the discharge of its duties as Local Health Authority, an especially valuable feature of the work being in the care and supervision which the Association provide on a voluntary basis for patients who were formerly ascertained as educationally sub-normal or mentally defective but have now reached maturity, and in respect of whom Supervision under the Mental Deficiency Acts cannot be arranged or is undesirable. In addition, the Association are represented upon the various Occupation Centre Committees and provide amenities which would otherwise be a charge upon County funds.

The Association have in certain cases provided grants in needy cases and have assisted in employment problems.

Staff. My Deputy and I are engaged part-time in Mental Health Services work for administration and the following staff are employed in my department whole-time in Mental Health duties, unless otherwise stated:—

(a) Medical Officers.

The Senior Medical Officer for Mental Health Services is in medical charge and directs the services. She is assisted, as required, by 5 other Medical Officers who are approved by the Local Health Authority for giving certificates under the Mental Deficiency Acts and for making recommendations under Section 1 (3) of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930. One of these officers is employed full-time by the County Council as School Medical Inspector while the others are engaged on a sessional basis by special arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board.

(b) Non-Medical Officers.

The Mental Health Officer, who is a Petitioning Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts and a duly authorised officer under the provisions of the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, is responsible for administration and the day-to-day management of the Services. This officer has also been appointed Receiver by the Court of Protection in respect of the estates of 17 mentally defective patients in institutions or under guardianship. He is assisted by a Deputy, who is also a Petitioning Officer, and the following staff in my department, in County districts and at Occupation Centres:—

Duly Authorised Staff

Mental Welfare Officers (Superintendent)	...	...	...	...	1
Mental Welfare Officers (3 part-time)	...	...	...	...	7
Mental Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	3

Occupation Centre Staff

Supervisors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Assistant Supervisors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Trainee Assistants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Domestic Helpers (part-time)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Caretakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Administrative and Clerical (except (b) above)

Clerical Staff	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Trainee Mental Welfare Officers	1
Vacancies	1

Total (non-medical) staff	35
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It is with deep regret that I have to report the death in January of this year of Mr. C. E. Newman, formerly Mental Health Officer in my department, and also of Mr. G. Gatehouse, the district Mental Welfare Officer at Yeovil, in May, 1953.

Staff Course. A very satisfactory course for Mental Health Services staff was held at Dillington House, Ilminster, during Whitsun week, 1953, by arrangement with the County Education Committee at which there was an excellent attendance, including officers from neighbouring Local Health Authorities. The Course was also attended by Probation Officers, staff of the Education and Clerk's Departments, and others interested in mental health work.

General Remarks. I am pleased to be able to record once again steady progress in the mental health services. The continued co-operation between this department and other departments of the County Council and the Regional Hospital Board, the various Hospital Management Committees and all those Authorities with whom there has been of necessity a very close liaison, has done much to assist in bringing about a smoother service and a better understanding of the work which is being done.

I would wish to express my thanks particularly to the Magistrates and Officers of the Courts, the Police, the Probation Service, and especially to thank those Magistrates and Judicial Authorities who throughout the year have been called upon in urgent cases to adjudicate, in the exercise of their powers under Mental Health legislation.

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year shortages were experienced in nine of the Borough and Urban and seven of the Rural Districts. In one or two instances restrictions were prolonged, particularly in the area of Yeovil Corporation. Fortunately, in nearly every case works are in hand which, when completed, will more than cover immediate demands.

Progress has been gradual; four major schemes in the Rural Districts of Langport, Shepton Mallet, Wells and Yeovil are making headway and when completed will provide all the water required in the respective areas for some time to come. Yeovil Borough will be afforded a supply

from the impounding reservoir at Sutton Bingham which will help to obviate the necessity to impose restrictions as they have had to do over past years. The headworks at the source of the supply for Shepton Mallet Rural are a joint undertaking with the Frome Rural District Council who in the coming year will be able to give the western part of their area a much needed supply.

The ensuing year should see Stage II of the Comprehensive Scheme by Wells R.D.C. well advanced. On completion this will not only serve the southern area of their district but afford supplies to the Boroughs of Glastonbury and Wells City.

The reservoir under construction by the Bristol Waterworks Company in the Chew Valley is now beginning to fill. This source will provide augmentation water for the districts north of the Mendips.

Generally speaking, if work on Taunton Corporation's projected development of the headwaters of the River Tone can be started at an early date and reasonable progress be made, the County should be liberally served within the next five years.

The quality of the piped water supply on the whole has been most satisfactory. Only seven Authorities reported intermittent or seasonal contamination. In each case remedial measures were taken to provide a wholesome supply.

Altogether 2,148 samples of raw and treated water were submitted for bacteriological examination and 243 for chemical analysis.

Five Authorities reported water supplies in their areas which were liable to plumbo-solvent action. Steps taken to nullify the corrosive effect of this type of water vary from the provision of a lining plant to the laying of copper service pipes.

In the Urban Areas, out of 67,480 houses, 66,655 or 98.8 per cent have a piped supply to the house, 714 properties rely on standpipes and the remainder, 111, have private well or spring supplies.

So far as the Rural Districts are concerned, excluding Bridgwater and Shepton Mallet, it is estimated that 51,948 houses (83.8 per cent) now have a piped supply, 2,825 properties are served by standpipes and 7,173 are still dependent upon wells or springs.

Of the 396 parishes in the County 328 are supplied wholly or in part from public mains and 41 are served with a piped supply from private sources. The remainder rely on wells and springs.

With regard to private well supplies, the following action was taken:—

							Boroughs and Urbans.	Rurals.
Samples submitted for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	302
Number found satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	139
Number of piped supplies substituted for:—								
(a) well water	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	419
(b) private sources	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	18
(c) other	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Number of wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	37

During the year water shortages were experienced in the following areas:—

Boroughs and Urban Districts.

BRIDGWATER. Shortages were experienced during the summer. The use of hoses for washing cars and watering gardens was prohibited. It was not necessary, however, to curtail the supply.

BURNHAM-ON-SEA. Very poor pressure to premises at higher levels. It is proposed to construct a 900,000 gallon storage reservoir to augment the supply. Work is being commenced early in 1954.

CHARD Some shortage was experienced during the year.

GLASTONBURY. Some shortage was experienced towards the end of the summer. An intermittent supply was imposed for a time. It is proposed to participate with the Wells R.D.C. in a scheme which the latter have in hand for the Northern Parishes.

NORTON RADSTOCK. Arrangements are in progress with the Bristol Waterworks Company to augment the supply from the Chew Stoke Reservoir.

SHEPTON MALLET. A shortage was experienced at Cannards Grave due to lack of pressure. This trouble has now been overcome by taking a supply from the new main to Compton Road.

TAUNTON. Lack of filter and storage capacity, together with an increased demand, was responsible for an intermittent and inadequate water supply in the higher reaches of the Borough.

WATCHET. Further springs have been acquired by the Watchet Waterworks Company to supplement the supply.

YEOVIL. An additional temporary supply of approximately 100,000 gallons per day was obtained from Yeovil R.D.C. to augment the existing supply.

Rural Districts.

AXBRIDGE. A temporary relief was afforded to the Brean and Berrow areas during the summer months by boosting. A few local shortages occurred due to bursts.

CHARD. A serious shortage of water occurred during June, July and August in the Eastern Parishes. Throughout this period the mains capacity was barely sufficient to maintain full supplies and it was consequently found necessary to supplement the system from a temporary source at Longbridge, Lopen. The new reservoir and trunk main connecting the Pole Rue source and Stocklinch Reservoir are well under way and should be completed during the early summer of 1954.

CLUTTON. Some shortages were experienced due to inadequate distribution mains. The supplies to Clutton and Paulton parishes were turned off for a period of four hours daily.

LANGPORT. Shortages are still being experienced in the higher parts of Curry Rivel during the peak hours. Similar difficulties are also occurring at Fivehead, Curry Mallet and Hambridge. Arrangements for the Chard R.D.C. to provide more water have been made.

LONG ASHTON. Kenn was the only parish affected by a shortage of water. Arrangements were made by the River Board to supply by cartage.

SHEPTON MALLET. Supplies were restricted during the day in the parishes of Ditchat, Pilton and parts of Holcombe and East Pennard. The restrictions commenced on the 1st August and were finally lifted on the 22nd September.

WILLITON. The only shortage experienced was at Withycombe due to heavy drawing at Carhampton. The supply to Carhampton is being augmented and this should improve the supply available to Withycombe.

YEOVIL. Shortages previously experienced were overcome when the temporary intake at Sutton Bingham came into operation in June. Some 300,000 gallons per day are filtered, chlorinated and pumped to the new reservoir at Coker Hill, West Coker.

Omitting extensions to housing sites and pipe renewals, the following capital works were carried out or in progress during the year:—

Boroughs and Urban Districts

BRIDGWATER. 9in. and 8in. main, Town Bridge to Bristol Road. 10in. main Durleigh Road (part of new high level water scheme within Borough boundary).

GLASTONBURY. Extension of water mains to supply the Brindham and Wick areas.

SHEPTON MALLET. Extensions of mains have been carried out at Hitchen Lane, Kilver Street and Old Wells Road, the last mentioned by the Shepton Mallet R.D.C. under reciprocal arrangements. In addition, and under similar arrangements, a new main is being laid from Cannards Grave to the higher part of Compton Road. The work should be completed during the early part of 1954.

Rural Districts

BATHAVON. Extensions were carried out by the West Gloucester Water Company to serve the areas of Swineford and Newton St. Loe. The supply is not yet available in the latter village.

BRIDGWATER. Water supply schemes for Steart and Shapwick were completed. A pump was installed at Inwood Farm, Fiddington, and a new rising main laid to the reservoir.

CLUTTON. In addition to several small extensions there was one fairly large length of 3in. main laid at Highfield Lane, East Harptree.

LANGPORT. The new mains to the parish of Compton Dundon, being part of the Eastern Parishes supply scheme, were sterilised and brought into use, thus making a piped supply available in the parish for the first time. Considerable progress was also made with the laying of mains in the parishes of Charlton Mackrell, Babcary, Kingweston and Keinton Mandeville.

SHEPTON MALLET. Work on the Council's major scheme for augmenting and extending the water supply systems was continued. It is anticipated that the scheme, estimated to cost approximately £300,000, should be completed by the end of 1954.

WELLINGTON. A new borehole was provided at Ashbrittle to provide, with other sources, a supply to the south-western part of the district.

WELLS. An extension was carried out from a point near Homeway Corner, Meare, to Westhay Lane. A water tower erected at Meare is now in use although certain works have still to be completed. The village, therefore, has a supply under medium pressure.

The high pressure main under Stage I of the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme was laid from the source at Priddy to Easton and during the year eighty-six houses were connected to the service mains in Westbury-sub-Mendip and thirty-three in the village of Easton.

WINCANTON. A new 6in. main has been laid from Lodge Hill Reservoir to South Cary.

YEOVIL. The 750,000 gallon concrete reservoir at Coker Hill was completed. Pumping, gravity and trunk mains were also completed covering the districts of Sutton Bingham, Coker Hill, Odcombe, Lower Vagg and Chilthorne Domer. 6in. and 3in. asbestos-cement mains were laid in the areas of Ilchester, West Camel, Martock (Foldhill Lane), Closworth and Sutton Bingham. In addition, satisfactory progress was made on the construction of the impounding reservoir at Sutton Bingham.

Future proposals are as follows:—

Boroughs and Urban Districts.

BRIDGWATER. A new 10in. trunk main and new high level reservoir in Spaxton Road (R.D.C. area)—estimated cost £27,176.

CHARD. New scheme under consideration—estimated cost £25,000.

MINEHEAD. Future proposals include the completion of the Nutscale Dam and the chlorination of all sources of supply.

SHEPTON MALLET. A site has been acquired for the erection of a reservoir at Downside. This is being treated as a long-term policy development, however, and priority has been given to the reservoir at Compton Road.

STREET. The work on the $4\frac{1}{2}$ mile trunk main has now been completed but the flushing to cleanse is still in progress. The main has not yet been brought into service.

WELLS. Sinking of new borehole—£3,500.

YEOVIL. It is proposed to obtain a bulk supply from the Sutton Bingham source when the impounding reservoir, at present under construction, is completed.

Rural Districts.

AXBRIDGE. Future proposals include a supply being afforded to the Wrington Hill area, an extension of the main at Kewstoke and the watering of Charterhouse; the latter is estimated to cost approximately £20,000.

BATHAVON. It is proposed to carry out extensions of Bath Corporation's mains to parts of Bathampton and to extend the West Gloucester Water Company's mains to Compton Dando, Burnett, Corston and Newton St. Loe.

BRIDGWATER. Short-term proposals including reservoirs at North Petherton, Edington and Puriton.

CHARD. Further extensions of the Regional Augmentation Scheme which include reservoirs at Pretwood and Stocklinch and the laying of a 6in. trunk main from Clayhanger to the Langport Rural District boundary at Stewley, Ashill.

CLUTTON. It is proposed to make a 14in. connection to the Bath main at Northend, Clutton, via Hallatrow and Paulton. This is estimated to cost approximately £40,000.

LANGPORT. Continuation of the Eastern Parishes Scheme. It is anticipated that the main laying in the parishes of Charlton Mackrell, Barton St. David, Kingweston, Babcary and Keinton Mandeville will be completed during the summer of 1954—estimated cost £323,958.

LONG ASHTON. The commencement of several schemes of a major nature is proposed during the coming year and these will include:—

The provision of a main supply to Dundry by the Bristol Waterworks Company under guarantee.

A main supply to the Redcliffe Bay area of North Weston under joint guarantee with the Portishead Urban District Council and further extensions to the outlying areas of the parish of Kingston Seymour.

WELLINGTON. Development of the new supply at Ashbrittle and Payton Springs to serve the south-western part of the district.

WELLS. Comprehensive Scheme, Stage II—laying of trunk mains from West Pennard to Butleigh and from Easton through Wookey, Coxley and North Wootton to West Pennard, also from Westbury through Rodney Stoke and Draycott to Cheddar. Distribution mains will be laid simultaneously with the trunk mains. Service reservoirs are to be constructed at Westbury-sub-Mendip, Wookey and Butleigh.

The total estimated cost of the whole scheme is £209,000.

WINCANTON. A scheme for the provision of additional water from Thornford in the Sherborne Rural District, the abandonment of certain of the smaller sources and the provision of additional reservoirs and linking mains has been approved in principle by the Ministry.

YEOVIL. Future proposals of a major nature are all concerned with the Comprehensive Scheme.

Schemes approved under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, during the year were as follows:—

Rural District.		Scheme.		Estimated cost (as submitted).	
				£	s. d.
Axbridge	Augmentation of District Council's Supply	1,015	0 0
Bathavon	Batheaston—Extension to Steway Lane	400	0 0
Bathavon	Camerton—Extension to New Buildings	645	0 0
Bathavon	Dunkerton—Extension to Tunley	3,300	0 0
Bridgwater	Nythe Extension	910	0 0
Clutton	Purchase of Bedford Van for use in connection with repairs and maintenance of District Council's water undertaking	900	0 0
Frome	Blatchbridge and Woodlands Area Water Supply Scheme	30,457	0 0
Frome	Rode Common Extension	500	0 0
Frome	Standerwick Extension	600	0 0
Langport	Charlton Mackrell—Peddles Lane Extension	602	0 0
Langport	Compton Dundon Housing Estate Extension	300	0 0
Wellington	Ford and Preston Bowyer Extensions	3,500	0 0
Wellington	Hillfarrance Extension	2,060	0 0
Williton	Holford—Purchase of private water undertaking	1,250	0 0

Rural District.		Scheme.						Estimated cost (as submitted).		
								£	s.	d.
Wincanton	Bruton—relaying of mains	...	...	...	...	7,800	0	0
Wincanton	Galhampton and North Barrow Areas—improvement of supply	...	...	...	...	2,025	0	0
Yeovil	Comprehensive Scheme—Contract No. 23—Supply of 9in. pipes and fittings	...	...	...	...	11,525	0	0
Yeovil	Sutton Bingham—acquisition of land for impounding reservoir and ancillary works	...	...	...	...	25,450	0	0

Schemes approved prior to 1953 but costs revised and re-submitted:—

Rural District.		Scheme.						Revised cost.		
								£	s.	d.
Frome	Faulkland Extension and development of Norton St. Philip source	...	...	...	...	40,894	0	0
Langport	Kingsdon Extension	...	...	...	...	523	14	7
Long Ashton	Dundry Supply	...	...	...	...	32,170	0	0
Taunton	Churchstanton—Supply to Churchinford, Stapley and Willand	...	...	...	...	14,618	0	0
Taunton	Norton Fitzwarren—Rectory Road Housing Site Supply	...	...	...	...	778	18	3
Yeovil	Comprehensive Scheme—Contract No. 8—Temporary Weir and Intake, Sutton Bingham	...	...	...	...	6,761	0	0

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Fair progress was made in the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal, particularly in the Rural Districts of Shepton Mallet and Yeovil. Works of improvement have been carried out in other areas. Conditions are, however, far from satisfactory in a number of places where pollution is taking place and nuisances are being created, due either to inadequate sewerage or treatment works, or both. The worst parts affected are Crewkerne, Glastonbury, Langport, Templecombe, Taunton and Yeovil. Whilst schemes have been prepared, and in the majority of cases submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval, a considerable time appears to elapse before loan sanction or a starting date is given. In the meantime, the existing gross conditions are further aggravated by the increase in waste from the additional houses being erected.

Extensions and improvements carried out during the year were as follows:—

Boroughs and Urban Districts.

BRIDGWATER. Construction of trunk sewer at Westonzoyland Road. Work on the laying of this sewer is still in progress. Estimated cost to end of 1953—£20,000.

KEYNSHAM. An extension of a storm water sewer to deal with an area of sixty-five acres which it is proposed to develop was carried out.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. Coronation Estate—the construction of foul and surface water sewers of 24in. to 6in. diameter. Enlargement of the Uphill Pumping Station. The latter is still in progress.

Rural Districts.

AXBRIDGE. The new sewerage and sewage disposal works for Axbridge and Cross were virtually completed.

Banwell—extension of the existing sewage disposal works.

BATHAVON. Extension of sewer to serve London Road area of Bathford at an estimated cost of £14,740.

BRIDGWATER. A start was made on the West Huntspill section which forms part of the Northern Parishes Group Scheme.

CHARD. A settlement tank was constructed at Merriott sewage outfall. The irrigation systems at Merriott and Misterton were also reorganised and improved.

LONG ASHTON. Additions and improvements to the Cambridge House Sewage Disposal Works at Long Ashton were completed.

SHEPTON MALLET. Work on the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal works for the parish of Stoke Lane and part of the parish of Ashwick was continued. These works are now nearing completion. The sewerage of part of Stratton-on-the-Fosse was well in progress at the end of the year.

WELLINGTON. Milverton—reconstruction of sewage disposal works and the laying of trunk sewers was commenced.

Oake—construction of sewage disposal works and laying of sewers to twenty-six houses.

WILLITON. Extensions in the District included:—

- (1) Outfall connected to R.A.F. sea outfall at Doniford ;
- (2) Extension at Highbridge ;
- (3) Watchet Road ;
- (4) Catwell ;
- (5) Bridge Street—

at an estimated cost of £13,000.

YEOVIL. East and West Coker—the scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal completed—estimated at £57,500.

Haselbury Plucknett—scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal completed.

Future proposals are as follows:—

Boroughs and Urban Districts.

BRIDGWATER. Completion of the Westonzoyland Road trunk sewer and the laying of a relief sewer at Quantock Road.

BURNHAM-ON-SEA. Extensions of outfalls at Highbridge Clyce to discharge into the River Brue below low water mark. These works are necessitated by the silting up of the old river bed.

FROME. The construction of new sewage works.

GLASTONBURY. Proposed sewage and trade waste disposal scheme. Tenders invited and negotiations with factories in hand. The works are estimated to cost £150,000.

ILMINSTER. A scheme is in course of preparation for submission to the Ministry for installation of new sewage disposal works. The cost is estimated at £12,500.

NORTON RADSTOCK. It is proposed to sewer the Thicket Mead area of Midsomer Norton to replace septic tanks.

SHEPTON MALLET. Draft proposals are in course of preparation for a modified scheme of improvements and modernisation of the sewage disposal arrangements. It is hoped that the details will be sufficiently advanced to submit to the Ministry early in 1954.

WELLS. Extension and reconstruction of sewage works.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. Enlargement of Uphill pumping station and a main drainage scheme. The latter is estimated to cost £900,000.

YEOVIL. It is proposed to commence the construction of new sewage purification works in March of 1954. This is estimated to cost £330,000.

Rural Districts.

AXBRIDGE. A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for Congresbury, also for the parish of Locking.

BATHAVON. Schemes to serve the areas of Southern Peasedown, Priston, Southstoke and Freshford.

BRIDGWATER. Extension of Northern Parishes Group Scheme to Puriton.

DULVERTON. Schemes are proposed to take in the parishes of Winsford, Brompton Regis and Withypool.

LANGPORT. A scheme for new sewerage and sewage disposal works at Langport has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The cost is estimated at £103,500.

LONG ASHTON. Schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal are in hand for the parishes of Nailsea, Flax Bourton, Winford, Easton-in-Gordano, Portbury, Dundry and Long Ashton.

SHEPTON MALLET. Croscombe—a scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for this village is now under consideration by the Ministry.

TAUNTON. Schemes envisaged will cover the parishes of Bishops Hull and Hatch Beauchamp and several other parishes in the District.

WELLINGTON. Wiveliscombe—reconstruction of Hillsmoor sewage disposal works. Provision of sewers and works at Langford Budville, West Buckland, Fitzhead and Bradford-on-Tone.

WELLS. Meare and Westbury-sub-Mendip—schemes for these parishes are being submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. A scheme for the parish of Walton has been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government but work has been deferred for financial reasons.

WILLITON. Roadwater and Washford—the estimated cost of works at these two parishes is £30,000.

WINCANTON. Sewerage and sewage disposal at Templecombe—estimated cost £26,000.

YEOVIL. Mudford—sewerage and sewage disposal works.

Martock, Stoke-sub-Hamdon and Montacute—it is proposed to construct combined disposal works and main sewers for these three parishes. The scheme is in course of preparation and is estimated to cost £35,000.

Schemes submitted and approved were as follows:—

Rural District.	Scheme.	Estimated cost (as submitted).		
		£	s.	d.
Axbridge	St. Michael's Home—Connection to sewer	515	0	0
Langport	Langport Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	103,500	0	0
Long Ashton	Easton-in-Gordano and Lodway sewerage proposals	26,100	0	0
Long Ashton	Winford Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	24,900	0	0
Taunton	Churchinford—Ford Farm drainage	415	0	0
Wellington	Wiveliscombe—Reconstruction and extension of Hills-moor Sewage Disposal Works	17,200	0	0
Wincanton	North Cheriton—Sewerage and sewage disposal system	8,500	0	0
Wincanton	Templecombe Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	25,532	0	0
Yeovil	East Coker—Sewering of Wraxall Estate	1,500	0	0

Schemes approved prior to 1953 but costs revised and re-submitted:—

Rural District.	Scheme.	Revised cost.		
		£	s.	d.
Long Ashton	Easton-in-Gordano—Pill—Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	19,100	0	0
Shepton Mallet	Evercreech Drainage Scheme	22,000	0	0
Shepton Mallet	Stratton-on-the-Fosse Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	25,775	0	0
Taunton	Bishops Hull—Shutewater Hill Sewerage Scheme	5,100	0	0
Wellington	Milverton Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	26,580	0	0

HOUSING.

The following is a brief résumé of the housing conditions in the County as at the 31st December, 1953:—

Altogether 3,452 houses were erected during the year, of which 2,404 were built by Local Authorities. New homes provided by the conversion of large dwellings and other temporary accommodation numbered 367; the figure for 1952 was 107. Houses in course of erection by Local Authorities and Private Enterprise totalled 2,247.

The total number of applicants for houses, viz., 16,023, was 2,454 less than in the preceding year. 15,201 houses were required to replace those condemned as unfit, overcrowded or for other unsatisfactory conditions.

It will, therefore, be seen that in order to meet the needs of applicants and the replacement of unfit, overcrowded and other unsatisfactory conditions the provision of a further 31,224 units of accommodation will be necessary. At the present rate of building it will probably take between 8½ and 9 years before all demands are met.

Improvement Grants. Details regarding applications received or made by Local Authorities for grant aid under the Housing Act, 1949, were as follows:—

Year	Applications dealt with by Local Authority				Submitted to Ministry			
	Received	Approved	Rejected	Under consideration	Number sent	Approved	Rejected	Under consideration
1952	26	13	9	4	14	8*	5	3
1953	48	26	16	6	27	25	1	1

*Includes applications under consideration at end of 1951.

Many enquiries for assistance for grant aid under the Act were received by Authorities but when applicants were informed of the requirements attached to the Act they showed no further interest.

Rural Housing Survey.

Far more progress was made during 1953 towards completion of the Survey. 1,073 houses were inspected and classified compared with 401 in the preceding year. The following table shows the position as at the 31st December, 1953.

In explanation of the classifications, Category I, which is sub-divided, "District" means any house, the standard of which, of amenity or fitness, meets the requirements of the Housing Acts; "County" refers to a house not only equal to the District Standard but also conforming to the standards as recommended by the Hobhouse Committee.

Category I	...	Fit in all respects.
„ II	...	Require minor repairs.
„ III	...	Need structural alteration or extensive repairs.
„ IV	...	Considered suitable for reconditioning by grant aid.
„ IVa	...	Suitable for acquisition by the Local Authority.
„ V	...	Unfit.

Houses £16 R.V. or under at Dec., 1930	Year	Inspected	C A T E G O R I E S						
			I		II	III	IV	IVa	V
			District	County					
43,753	1952	32,191	4,842	1,354	7,189	12,515	2,389	667	7,645
	1953	33,264	5,050	1,378	7,480	12,960	2,405	667	7,774

From the above table it will be seen that 10,489 houses still require examination. Of those inspected (33,264) 38.9 per cent require extensive repair and 23.4 per cent were found to be unfit.

A considerable number of those houses in the unfit category are placed under this heading due to the defects found on examination being such that they could not be made fit at a reasonable cost. Those houses in Category IV mainly comprise those shown in the unfit column.

During the year 1,583 houses were made fit, viz., 698 minor repairs, 605 major repairs and 280 previously classed as unfit.

In November, 1953, the Minister of Housing and Local Government introduced a new Bill to the House of Commons. Its title, "The Housing Repairs and Rents Bill", is now well known and the main objects of this Bill are to confer additional powers on Local Authorities in relation to **unfit houses** and to provide Exchequer assistance for certain aspects of this work. It is also proposed to amend the provision of Part II of the Housing Act, 1949, which relates to grants for the improvement and conversion of houses. This will entitle house-owners who bring their property into a good state of repair and keep it in that condition to a rent increase.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Conversions from pail and other types of closets to water carriage systems involved 7 properties in the Borough and Urban Areas and 362 in the Rurals. These figures are in no way conclusive as two Authorities were unable to supply the necessary details.

It is estimated that 98,616 houses are now provided with water closets but here again the figure is inconclusive—twelve Districts being unable to give the relevant information.

Cesspool emptying.

In the majority of cases Local Authorities leave the emptying of cesspools to the tenant. In five cases the service is rendered by the Local Authority. Charges are variable and whilst some Districts charge on an hourly basis others base their charge on the load. One Urban Authority provides a free service every six months and nine Districts arrange for the emptying to be handled by contract.

House Refuse.

With the exception of five Districts where contractors are employed, the collection of house refuse is arranged by the Local Authorities, employing their own staff and vehicles. One District employs both methods.

Trade Waste.

Various schemes are in operation for the collection and disposal of trade waste. In some areas the normal practice is for the waste to be collected during the routine refuse collections, whilst in others a charge is levied according to the load. Altogether eleven Districts operate a scheme of "Trade Waste" collection.

Refuse Disposal.

There are 41 controlled, 4 partly controlled and 13 uncontrolled tips at present in use in the County. Disposal of refuse by incineration is adopted in 5 Urbans and one Rural District.

CAMPING SITES.

At the 31st December, 1953, there were 56 and 169 licensed camping sites in the Urban and Rural Districts respectively, the estimated permanent population being 776 and the seasonal peak population 12,593. Five Authorities were unable to supply any information but it is doubtful whether this would affect the aforementioned details as the Authorities concerned were mainly inland Boroughs or Urbans.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are now twenty-five baths in the County, excluding those at private schools. At thirteen treatment is by recirculation, filtration and automatic chlorination and at nine by hand chlorination only. Three others do not receive any treatment.

For the past three years it has been the custom to maintain a very careful check on the fitness of the water in those swimming baths used by children for swimming instruction. With the co-operation of local Sanitary Inspectors and the Inspectors of Bristol and Bath, chlorine residual readings are taken, or, alternatively, samples of water are submitted for bacteriological examination.

Samples of water taken from all baths during the year totalled 151. These were submitted for bacteriological examination, 9 of which were classed as either suspicious or unsatisfactory.

264 chlorine residual tests were also carried out.

SUPERVISION OVER THE FOOD SUPPLY.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

The Ministry of Food control fifteen slaughterhouses in the County. In addition, there are three licensed slaughterhouses where horses are slaughtered for human consumption and ten licensed knackers' yards.

The number of animals slaughtered for human consumption during the year was 372,739, of which 1,975 were horses.

Meat condemned by local Sanitary Inspectors as unfit amounted to 771,703 lbs. Of the total quantity condemned approximately 370,080 lbs. was affected with Tuberculosis. One Authority was unable to supply any information regarding the quantity of meat condemned.

Tuberculosis in Calves.

Where calves born inside the County but slaughtered outside are found to be affected by tuberculosis, notification of such cases is received by arrangement with the Authorities concerned. This information is passed on to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who arranges for an investigation to be carried out. As a result of this collaboration the spread of infection is reduced. Generally, it is the mother who is found to be primarily responsible for the condition of her offspring.

Only seventeen notifications were received during the year—the lowest number ever recorded. As a result of tests made, thirteen dams were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, and two dams were found to be healthy. The Veterinary Service could not trace the dams of two calves.

Cysticercus Bovis.

For the second year running only one case of infestation has been reported. The usual investigation was made to ascertain the conditions under which the heifer in question was grazed.

It would now appear from the number of cases being reported that the infection is definitely on the wane.

Designated Milk (Raw).

From figures kindly supplied by the County Agricultural Executive Committee, producers and licences at the end of the year were as follows:—

Registered and Licensed Producers—7,309.

Number of Licensed "Tuberculin Tested" producers	...	...	2,873 = 39.3%
" " "Accredited" producers	...	...	453 = 6.2%
Estimated number of Undesignated producers	...	...	3,983 = 54.5%

Registered and Licensed Producer-Retailers—

Total number of producer-retailers ...	...	...	...	...	1,075
Number of producer-retailers of "Tuberculin Tested" milk	...	...	...	...	430=40.0%
" " "Accredited" milk	...	...	...	...	76= 7.1%
" " Undesignated milk	...	...	...	...	569=52.9%

Bottling Licences—

“Tuberculin Tested”	...	...	...	...	...	...	123
“Accredited”	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
							<hr/> 131

Visits and inspections made by Staff of the County Agricultural Executive Committee during 1953:—

Routine (surprise) and Advisory Visits to Designated Producers—3,161.

Designated Producers.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	543
Re-inspections		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	365

Undesignated Producers.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	733
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	245
Requested Advisory Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,355

Undesignated Producers (new entrants).

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	284
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	210

In addition, sundry visits are made concerning solids-not-fats and water supplies.

The number of Registered Distributors, Dairy Premises and Supplementary Licences issued during the year are set out below:—

				Boroughs and Urbans.	Rurals.	Total.
Registered Distributors	...	...	...	179	156	335
Registered Dairy Premises	...	...	...	134	90	224
Supplementary Licences issued	...	...	...	43	75	118

Milk Sampling—Samples taken:—

				Boroughs and Urbans.		Rurals.		Total.
				Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	
"Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	109	40	70	23	242
"Accredited"	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Undesignated	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	...	...	...	77	1	3	—	81
Sterilised	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
				186	41	73	23	323

Undesignated and "Accredited" (Raw) Milk.

In view of the fact that we have 645 producer-retailers of "Accredited" and Undesignated milk where the danger of bovine tubercle infection to the consumer is possible, sampling for biological examination has been continued. This danger can only be eliminated by making it an offence to sell such milk in its raw state. The sooner "Specified Areas" are extended in the County in which only a designated milk, not including "Accredited" milk, can be sold, the better.

Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk.

The number of premises licensed to pasteurise milk in the County as at the 31st December, 1953, was thirty-one, plus one licensed to sterilise milk.

New licenses issued and cancelled during the year numbered four and three respectively.

Existing plants in the County are now estimated to be capable of dealing with 77,750 gallons of milk in a five hour run and in seven hours 108,850 gallons.

Routine inspections have been continued and advisory visits made following unsatisfactory results.

Details of samples taken during the year are as follows:—

Designation.						Number of Samples taken.	Number Satisfactory.	Percentage Unsatisfactory.
Pasteurised—								
Bulk	...	...	...	...	...	246	244	0.8
Bottled		...	...	...	...	1,215	1,182	2.7
						<hr/> 1,461	<hr/> 1,426	<hr/> 2.4
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	<hr/>49	<hr/> 49	<hr/> —

							Pasteurised.	Sterilised.
No. failing Phosphatase test	...	...	...				16	—
No. failing Methylene Blue or Keeping Quality test	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	—
No. failing both tests	...	...	...	...			2	—

Twenty-three qualifying samples were taken respecting applicants for new pasteurising licences.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations.

On the 16th December, 1953, the Minister of Food issued a Circular which gave the 1st October, 1954, as the appointed day from which it shall be compulsory to use overlapping caps for containers of pasteurised milk. From the same date it will be compulsory for all milk for the public to be bottled on the premises where it is processed.

Specified Areas.

No further progress has been made to designate other parts of the County as "Specified Areas". To date only two areas have been Specified, namely, Keynsham Urban and the Rural District of Bathavon. It is understood, however, that possibly in October, 1954, four or five Rural and five Borough or Urban Districts will be so classified.

In explanation of the term "Specified Area", only milk bearing a special designation can be sold. To ensure this the County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, have the responsibility of enforcing the Regulations.

Animal Health.

There are approximately 331,272 cattle in the County, of which roughly 147,250 are either "Attested", "Supervised" or "Tuberculin Tested". To become "Attested" a herd must pass three consecutive clean tests, in other words, no animal must react at each testing. "Supervised" means herds which have passed two clean tests and are awaiting the third for Attestation. "Tuberculin Tested" refers to those animals which have passed the tuberculin test and comprise a dairy herd for which the owner holds a licence to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to the milk produced from it. The figures involved in the herds mentioned at the end of 1953 are as follows:—

No. of herds Attested and for which "T.T." licences have been granted ...	...	2,421
„ Attested only ...	...	758
	Attested ...	3,179
No. of Supervised herds ...	...	52
„ "T.T." Supervised herds ...	...	127
„ herds not Attested but for which "T.T." licences have been issued ...	...	105
	Total ...	3,463

Biological Sampling.

Bulk sampling from "Accredited" and Undesignated herds owned by producer-retailers has been continued and in eleven cases, affecting six herds, tubercle bacilli were found in the milk. Such sampling is a primary duty of the County Council under the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950. By arrangement five Districts kindly assist in this work.

Samples taken and results are as follows:—

Grade of milk	Samples examined	Herds concerned	Number containing tubercle bacilli	Percentage of herds containing tubercle bacilli	
				1953	1952
Undesignated ...	417	226	11	4.9	4.4
Accredited ...	61	19	—	—	—

Hospital Farms.

At the request of the Ministry of Health 60 samples were taken from the 5 Hospital Farms in the County for bacteriological examination and 20 for biological purposes. In addition 12 Pasteurised milk samples were taken from Tone Vale Hospital.

MILK-IN-SCHOOLS SCHEME.

TABLE XII.

Types of Schools (including Divisional Executive Areas)	Total No. of each type	Types of Milk supplied to Schools (October, 1953) with percentages					
		Past.	%	T.T.	%	U.D.	%
Primary ...	416	352	84.6	62	14.9	2	0.5
Secondary Modern ...	39	38	97.4	1	2.6	—	—
„ Grammar ...	18	18	100.0	—	—	—	—
„ Technical ...	3	2	66.7	1	33.3	—	—
Nursery ...	2	2	100.0	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	478	412	86.2	64	13.4	2	0.4

As will be seen from Table XII above, pasteurised milk is now being consumed at 412 of the 478 schools in the County. Thus, apart from 1952 when a slight drop occurred due to one supplier reverting to the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" milk, the consumption of pasteurised milk in schools has increased from 74.3 per cent in 1949 to 86.2 per cent in 1953.

TABLE XIII.

Types of Schools (including Divisional Executive Areas)	No. of Regis- tered Children	Children taking milk		Quantity of milk consumed, in one-third pints, on one specific day in October, 1953					
		No.	%	Past.	%	T.T.	%	U.D.	%
Primary	43,060	36,942	85.8	33,788	91.4	3,133	8.5	21	0.1
Secondary Modern ...	12,287	7,258	59.1	6,928	95.5	330	4.5	—	—
„ Grammar..	5,036	2,734	54.3	2,734	100.0	—	—	—	—
„ Technical..	340	241	70.9	161	66.8	80	33.2	—	—
Nursery	79	79	100.0	79	100.0	—	—	—	—
Totals	60,802	47,254	77.7	43,690	92.5	3,543	7.5	21	0.04

The information in Table XIII was obtained from the Ministry of Food Form M.S.I. which is completed by Head Teachers monthly. The figures do *not* allow for those children absent due to sickness or other causes.

The percentage of children taking milk shows for the first time since 1949 an increase over that for the preceding year, the largest rise being recorded at Secondary Modern Schools. This is most gratifying. Over the past few years it has been noticeable that as children pass from the Primary to the Secondary Modern or Grammar School there is a tendency to stop having the daily third-pint of milk.

Percentage of Children taking Milk.

1949	...	...	...	82.2%	1952	...	...	...	76.9%
1950	...	...	...	79.0%	1953	...	...	...	77.7%
1951	...	...	...	77.2%					•

ICE CREAM.

The number of Registered Premises in the County are as follows:—

						Boroughs and Urbans.	Rurals.
Premises registered for manufacture and retail	...	...	...	...	...	58	16
„ „ „ only	...	...	...	...	...	11	1
„ retail only	...	...	...	...	...	846	637
						<u>915</u>	<u>654</u>

Percentage of Samples taken which fall into Grades I and II.

Year.						%
1947	...	...	...	...	...	46.0
1948	...	...	...	...	...	64.0
1949	...	...	...	...	...	70.5
1950	...	...	...	...	...	84.7
1951	...	...	...	...	...	91.1
1952	...	...	...	...	...	90.4
1953	...	...	...	...	...	86.6

During the year 745 samples were taken by Borough and Urban Authorities and 337 by the Rural Authorities. The following figures show the number taken of Hot and Cold Mix samples and the percentage satisfactory:—

	Boroughs and Urbans		Rurals		Total	
	Number	% Satisfactory	Number	% Satisfactory	Number	% Satisfactory
Hot Mix ...	693	84.1	312	92.3	1,005	86.7
Cold Mix ...	52	80.8	25	96.0	77	85.7
Totals ...	745	83.9	337	92.6	1,082	86.6

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY PUBLIC ANALYST.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and other Orders relating to Food.

A Food and Drugs Amendment Bill is before Parliament. Its main objects are to revise the provisions of the 1938 Act and the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, which protect the public against the sale of food containing injurious ingredients and against the misdescription of food and drugs in labels and advertisements and to provide fuller powers to secure that food is not contaminated in the course of preparation, distribution and sale.

It provides that no prosecution in respect of an article sampled shall be commenced after the expiration of two months from the time when a sample was taken. The limit in the 1938 Act was only 28 days and in no case could a prosecution be undertaken after 42 days. The time limit of the 1938 Act has proved rather difficult in practice as the analysis has to be carried out, investigations made and the information laid within 28 days from the time of taking the sample. It has sometimes been impossible to carry through all this preliminary work within this period of time and in these cases no prosecution could be undertaken unless a further sample was purchased and a further analysis made.

Certain amendments relating to the labelling of food which were made by Regulation 1 of the Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations, are placed on a permanent basis and are extended to apply to drugs, and unless amended the assent of the Minister of Food will no longer be necessary before a prosecution may be undertaken for labelling offences but the Local Authority will have to give 14 days' notice of their intention to prosecute.

The Ministry of Food discontinued in 1952 the service extended to individual manufacturers whereby advice was given regarding labels and statements describing foodstuffs. This service was very helpful and it is a great pity that the good work accomplished during the past 10 years should be brought to a close. It is all the more necessary now that competitive advertising is once again appearing as the controls are lifted. There is a great temptation to exaggeration which is likely to get out of hand unless checked at the start.

Total number of Samples received.

The following is a summary of the samples received during the year:—

Samples submitted under the Food and Drugs Act and other Orders:—

By Inspectors—

Number taken formally	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,575
Number taken informally	1,105
"Appeal to Cow" samples	16

By Private Individuals	0
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2,696

Samples of School Milks	1,205
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Samples submitted under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act:—

Fertilisers	25
Feeding Stuffs	13

38

Drinking water samples for chemical analysis	313
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Sewages, effluents and river water samples	591
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Miscellaneous samples	84
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Specimens of urine	29
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Total number of samples 4,956

The total number of samples received for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act and other Orders was 2,696 of which 151 or 5.6 per cent. were adulterated or incorrect compared with 5.2 per cent. in the previous year.

The following table sets out in more detail the number of samples examined and the number and percentage adulterated or incorrect.

	Number Examined.	Number Incorrect.	Percentage Incorrect.
Milk	983	51	5.2
Channel Islands Milk	320	30	9.4
Condensed and Evaporated Milk	21	—	—
Cheese	28	2	7.1
Butter	54	—	—
Margarine	3	—	—
Other Edible Fats	48	—	—
Cereals	79	1	1.3
Baking and Golden Raising Powders	9	—	—
Sausages and other Meat Products	28	4	14.3
Meat and Fish Paste, etc.	36	—	—
Meat Pies and Fruit Pies	14	—	—
Tea	15	—	—
Coffee and Coffee and Chicory	16	—	—
Coffee and Chicory Extract and Essences	13	—	—
Cocoa and Cocoa Compounds	6	—	—
Sugar and Sugar Products	17	—	—
Tinned Cream	34	—	—
Canned Meat and Vegetables	106	1	0.9
Canned Fish	16	—	—
Canned Fruit	42	—	—
Canned and Powdered Soups	85	24	28.2
Jam, Marmalade, Honey, etc.	66	—	—
Vinegar	25	1	4.0
Pickles, Sauces, etc.	64	2	3.1
Sweets and Chocolates	65	11	16.9
Condiments and Spices	31	3	9.7
Jelly and Jelly Crystals	29	—	—
Soft Drinks	30	1	3.3
Ice Cream	87	4	4.6
Iced Lollies	7	—	—
Beer, Cider and Spirits	34	—	—
Miscellaneous Samples	101	2	2.0
Other Alcoholic Drinks	9	—	—
Lozenges and Tablets	53	8	15.0
Tonics, Syrups and Mixtures	16	2	12.5
Oils	22	—	—
Ointments	4	—	—
Other Drugs	80	4	5.0
	2,696	151	5.6

Adulterated Milk Samples.

The number of milk samples returned as adulterated was 81 including 30 of Channel Islands milk which were deficient of fat and 8 of which also contained added water.

Information as to the nature of the adulteration and details regarding individual samples is given in the following summary and table:—

Number containing added water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number deficient in fat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Number containing added water and deficient in fat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number containing preservatives	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

The percentage number of milk samples containing added water was 1.1 against 2.3 and 1.8 in 1952 and 1951 respectively. This is the lowest percentage figure but one of 1.05 in 1950 for the past seven years and if maintained would be very satisfactory especially as the survey of the chemical quality of the milk produced and sold in the County is becoming wider each year.

Here it is right that I should record my appreciation of the very good work carried out by the Sampling Officers under the control and direction of the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures. He has always worked in the closest co-operation with the laboratory and this is very essential for the effective administration of the various orders relating to food.

The number of milk samples (excluding those of Channel Islands milk) showing fat deficiencies was 40 which is 4.1 per cent. This is slightly higher than the percentage of 3.2 for last year.

While the presence of extraneous water can hardly be due to natural causes, a deficiency of fat can be brought about in this manner. The main cause is probably that of unequal milking intervals. The interval between the p.m. and a.m. milkings is generally the greater and the quantity of milk produced during this period is greater than that produced during the other period with the result that the fat content in the morning is lower than that in the evening milk.

Advice is continually being given to farmers on the matter.

No.	Added water or fat deficiency.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.	No.	Added water or fat deficiency.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
319	At least 4.5 % Water	Cautioned. Six other samples taken from same producer at the same time were genuine.	663	At least 46.6% Fat...	This milk was frozen in the bottle. Deficiency in fat due to inadequate mixing. Third portion contained 3.4% fat. No action.
327	13.3% Fat ...	Producer exonerated by appeal to cows sample. Cautioned.	833*	At least 17.3% Fat...	Manager of factory interviewed. No further action.
495	At least 5% Fat ...	Cautioned.	1078*	At least 4.1% Water	Fined £5. Advocate's fee £3 3s. Witness' fee £1.
557	At least 13% Fat ...	Eleven satisfactory samples since 1950. Owner selling business. No further action.	1079*	At least 1.5% Water	
602	At least 8% Water...	Plea of Guilty—Fined £2. Advocate's fee £4 4s.	1088	At least 9.3% Fat ...	Cautioned.
603	At least 9.5% Water		1326	At least 19.3% Fat...	A.M. milk. Appeal contained only 2.6% fat. Cautioned. Producer has undertaken to adjust the milking intervals.
656	At least 3% Water ...	Further samples to be taken.	1350*	At least 13.6% Fat...	See samples on delivery Nos. 1353 to 1355.
828	At least 21% Fat ...				
1149	At least 9.3% Fat ...				
11531	At least 5% Fat ...				
2810*	At least 25% Fat ...				
2811*	At least 16.6% Fat...				
2812*	At least 25% Fat ...				

No.	Added water or fat deficiency.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.	No.	Added water or fat deficiency.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
1352	At least 12.3% Fat...	See samples on delivery Nos. 1400 to 1408. Milk obtained from 3 producers.	2000	6% Water ...	Four further samples taken at a later date were genuine.
1353*	At least 19% Fat ...	Samples on delivery from wholesaler to retailer. See samples Nos. 1356 to 1358.	2001*	At least 39% Fat ...	Conditional discharge. Costs £5 5s. 0d.
1354*	At least 12.3% Fat...		2343	At least 2.5% Water	Taken from two half-pint bottles of milk. The retailer is a large dairy and the Manager was strongly cautioned. Two samples taken at a later date were genuine.
1355*	At least 14.6% Fat...				
1356*	At least 20% Fat ...	Samples on delivery from producer to wholesaler. Producer cautioned, and advised as to milking intervals.	2355*	At least 5.4% Water	Fined £10, total costs £6 6s. 0d.
1357*	At least 5.3% Fat ...				
1358*	At least 7.6% Fat ...				
1400	At least 8.3% Fat ...	First producer see No. 1352. Cautioned.	2541*	At least 18.6% Fat...	These three retailers were supplied by one wholesaler. Three summonses were issued against the latter. Fined a total of £6, £2 on each summons and advocate's fee £5 5s. 0d.
1402	At least 10% Fat ...	Second producer see No. 1352. Cautioned.	2543*	At least 29% Fat ...	
1403	At least 6.6% Fat ...				
1405	At least 5% Fat ...				
1406	At least 3.3% Fat ...	Third producer see No. 1352. Cautioned.	2546*	At least 30% Fat ...	
1408	At least 8.3% Fat ...				
1499	At least 6.6% Fat ...	Two later samples genuine. No further action.	2818	At least 16% Fat ...	See sample on delivery No. 2819.
1536	At least 10% Fat ...	Retailer cautioned.	2819	At least 5.3% Fat ...	Producer cautioned. He undertook to adjust milking intervals and to improve quality of the milk. Further samples showed an improvement in fat content.
1542	At least 16.6% Fat...	Previous samples taken recently were satisfactory.	3065*	At least 18% Water...	Plea of guilty. Fined £5, advocate's fee £5 5s.
1653	At least 5.3% Fat ...	Retailer producer cautioned.	3651	At least 10.6% Fat...	All Friesian cows. Cautioned and advised to adjust milking intervals.
1654	At least 10% Fat ...	Retailer cautioned.			
1929	At least 10% Fat ...	Milk was probably not thoroughly mixed. Retailer cautioned.			
1933	At least 9% Fat ...	Retailer has a good record and many samples have been satisfactory. Further samples will be taken.			

*Further details are given in the following paragraphs.

No. 833. The shop from which this sample was bought is owned by a factory. The Manager of the factory was interviewed and stated that it was the practice for any one churn to be taken from the many delivered to the factory, and for this to be sent to the retail shop. He has undertaken to deliver a churn of pasteurised milk to the shop and to bulk all milk received.

Nos. 1078 and 1079. The samples were of a.m. and p.m. milk respectively and appeal to cows samples were taken at morning and evening milkings. These were quite satisfactory and showed the presence of 5 and 8 per cent. of added water in the milk in the churns from which the original samples were taken. In court it was stated that the churns were left out all night on stands with the lids lifted so that the air could get to the milk. The defendant was found guilty and fined £5, advocate's fee £3 3s. 0d. and a witness' fee of £1.

Nos. 1350, 1353 to 1355 and 1356 to 1358. The original sample No. 1350 was taken from a.m. milk and the other two groups of samples were taken in course of delivery from the wholesaler to the retailer and from the producer to the wholesaler respectively. The Inspector arrived at the farm

before the milking was completed and saw the strippings added to the milk in the churns and there was no opportunity for skimming, yet all the three samples were deficient in fat. The deficiencies were almost certainly due to poor milk from the cows together with uneven milking intervals. The producer was cautioned and advised as to the milking intervals.

No. 2001.—The sample was taken from evening milk and contained only 1.83 per cent. of fat whereas one of the morning milk contained 4.4 per cent. of fat. An appeal to the cows was made at the evening milking and this sample was found to contain 5.06 per cent. of fat. The herd consisted of 12 cows, Guernseys and Shorthorns.

The defendant pleaded guilty and stated that the hand can was filled from the churn and the milk was not plunged but mixed only with a pint measure. He did not think that it was necessary to plunge the milk. The fat had risen in the evening milk before it was taken on the round the next morning.

He was given a Conditional Discharge.

No. 2355. Two samples were taken in course of delivery to the retailer which, on analysis, proved to be good quality milk.

The defendant summoned the wholesaler supplying the milk to him, under Section 83 of the Act. Contravention of the Act was admitted and proved.

The defendant had a herd of cows the milk from which he sold together with milk he bought from the wholesaler. A doubt was raised as to whether the milk sampled was from the defendant's herd or from that which was bought from the wholesaler. It was decided that the latter had no case to answer and the defendant was fined £10 and had to pay a total of £6 6s. 0d. costs, three guineas of which were awarded to the wholesaler.

Nos. 2541, 2543 and 2546. These samples were taken from three different retailers but the milk was supplied to these retailers by one wholesaler. It was unlikely that all three retailers had each tampered with the milk and the wholesaler was prosecuted. Three summonses were issued and the defendant pleaded guilty. It was stated that an employee who usually worked the tanks was absent on the morning on which the samples were taken and the relief man had failed to turn on the agitator. Red warning lights had since been installed to prevent a recurrence.

Nos. 2810, 2811 and 2812. These samples of milk were taken because of a complaint made by a factory that added water had been present in previous churns of milk from this producer. No added water was present in these samples but they were deficient in fat. They were all of morning milk and two samples of the evening milk, which were taken at the same time, were genuine, and contained 3.95 and 4.45 per cent. of fat respectively. The Inspector was of opinion that there was no opportunity for skimming the milk and that the deficiencies were probably due to uneven milking intervals.

No. 3065. In course of delivery samples were not taken as the retailer was unable to state from which source of supply the sample was taken. He also stated that he did not think that the producers were responsible for the milk being below standard. The milk bottles were washed by hand and it was suggested that they were probably not drained, but it was pointed out that a pint bottle would have contained 3.6 ounces of water which is appreciably more than would be due to insufficient draining.

The defendant pleaded guilty and was fined £5 and an advocate's fee of £5 5s. 0d.

Channel Islands Milk.

On the 1st May, 1953, the Milk (Great Britain) Order, 1953, came into operation and in it Channel Islands milk is defined as milk:—

- (a) which is produced from cows of the Channel Islands breeds, and
- (b) which the producer thereof sells by retail or in respect of which he receives a premium paid through the medium of a premium contract issued by a Milk Marketing Board, and
- (c) which is labelled "Channel Islands Milk", "Jersey Milk" or "Guernsey Milk" when sold in a container.

In addition to the above definition Section 6 states that no person shall sell any Channel Islands milk, Channel Islands T.T. milk or Channel Islands T.T. Farm Bottled milk at a price exceeding the maximum prices for ordinary milk, T.T. milk or T.T. Farm Bottled milk respectively unless the milk sold has a butter-fat content of not less than 4 per cent.

Three hundred and eighteen formal and two informal samples were submitted for analysis during the year, of which thirty were found to be deficient in fat. Eight of these also contained added water.

Details of these unsatisfactory samples are given below:—

No.	Deficiency of fat %.	Added water %.	Remarks.
723*	17.5	3.0	Prosecution undertaken with regard to the presence of added water. Plea of guilty. Fined £15 and costs £5 5s. 0d. Information relating to the fat deficiencies sent to the Ministry of Food.
724*	20.0	2.1	
725*	20.7	1.5	
726*	23.2	1.0	
727*	23.0	3.0	
728*	19.2	1.5	
729*	18.2	2.3	
730*	21.2	2.7	
737*	11.2	—	
738*	12.5	—	
739*	18.7	—	Information sent to the Ministry of Food.
740*	16.2	—	
2350	—	14.5	Plea of guilty. Fined £5, costs £3 3s. 0d.
1092	5.2		Further samples to be taken in each case.
1155	5.5		
1346	7.5		
1351	5.0		
1847	11.2		
2011*	11.2		
2087	21.7		
2088	18.5		
2098	10.0		
2179	11.5		
2340	15.2		See sample on delivery No. 2098. Producer advised to take steps to improve the quality of the milk. Retailer also concerning himself with the quality of the milk from this producer. Further samples will be taken. Retailer producer advised to take steps to improve the quality of the milk. Sample taken at later date was genuine. Appeal to cows sample contained only 3.92% of fat. Reported to Ministry of Food. Regional Officer to call on retailer producer.

No.	Deficiency of fat %.	Remarks.
2410	10.5	A.M. sample. Farmer interviewed and was requested to adjust milking intervals. P.M. sample satisfactory.
2424	12.5	See sample on delivery No. 2410.
2965	12.7	A sample taken at a later date was genuine.
3060	7.0	Another sample taken at the same time, from this retailer, was genuine and contained 4.58% of fat. He was advised to mix the milk thoroughly before bottling.
3432	16.2	Results reported to Ministry of Food.
3650*	24.0	Plea of guilty. Fined £3, advocate's fee £3 3s. 0d.

*Further details are given in the following paragraphs.

Nos. 723 to 740. All these samples were taken from the same producer. Nos. 723 to 726 were taken on a Saturday morning and were all of a.m. milk, three other samples of p.m. milk were also taken which were genuine. On the next day, Sunday, Nos. 727 to 730 were taken of a.m. milk and three others of the p.m. milk and again the evening milk samples were genuine.

Five appeal to cows samples were taken at an a.m. milking and were found to contain 2.85 to 3.82 per cent. of fat and, naturally, no added water was present; the freezing points all being normal. By comparing the average fat and freezing point figures of the appeal samples with those of the original samples, these latter were shown to contain from 5.5 to 7.4 per cent. of added water.

There were 27 cows in the herd, 21 were milked by machine and 6 by hand.

The producer was summoned for selling milk containing added water. He pleaded guilty and was fined £15 and £5 5s. 0d. costs.

The results of the analysis of all these samples together with those of Nos. 737 to 740 and the appeal samples were sent to the Ministry of Food for any further action that was deemed necessary.

No. 2011. The retailer had previously complained that milk from this producer appeared to be of poor quality but in course of delivery samples proved to be satisfactory. Previous samples from this retailer had also been genuine. No action was taken except that further samples will be submitted for analysis.

No. 3650. This sample contained only 3.04 per cent. of fat and was 24 per cent. deficient on a 4 per cent. fat basis. Four samples were taken in course of delivery and were found to contain 4.80, 5.63, 5.12 and 4.57 per cent. of fat respectively; the first two were of evening and the last two of morning milk.

The original sample was of milk in a pint bottle but it was not known whether it was a.m., p.m. or mixed milk.

The retailer was prosecuted under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The Inspector asked the vanman what type of milk he was selling and was told ordinary T.T. which was in bottles in the crates on the righthand side of the van and Channel Islands milk in crates on the lefthand side. The Inspector purchased a bottle of each and paid 7d. and 7½d. No distinguishing marks were on the caps and the vanman was asked if he were certain that the one bottle was Channel Islands milk and he assured him that it was. The sample of T.T. milk was found to contain over 4.0 per cent. of fat.

The prosecution asked the Bench to say how much butter-fat Channel Islands milk should contain. The defendant pleaded guilty and the Bench found that Channel Islands milk should contain at least 4.0 per cent. of butter-fat.

A fine of £3 was imposed and an advocate's fee of £3 3s. 0d.

This is the first case, in Somerset, in which the Magistrates have expressed their opinion that Channel Islands milk should contain at least 4.0 per cent. of butter-fat.

School Milks.

One thousand two hundred and five samples of milk as delivered to the schools have been analysed. In the case of those samples containing a low percentage of fat, producers have been advised to take steps to improve the quality of the milk. If repeated unsatisfactory samples are received from any one producer the case is dealt with under the Food and Drugs Act and appeal samples are taken in an endeavour to find the cause of the deficiencies of fat.

Average Composition of Milk Samples.

Year.			Fat %.	Solids-not-fat %.	Total Solids %.
1939	...	...	3.77	8.83	12.60
1945	...	...	3.67	8.78	12.45
1946	...	...	3.77	8.90	12.67
1947	...	...	3.74	8.82	12.56
1948	...	...	3.64	8.88	12.52
1949	...	...	3.71	8.74	12.45
1950	...	...	3.71	8.88	12.59
1951	...	...	3.77	8.75	12.52
1952	...	...	3.79	8.77	12.56
1953	...	...	3.86	8.83	12.69

Other Adulterated or Incorrect Samples.

No.	Description.	Nature of Offence.			Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
12	Cream of Tomato Soup (Powder) (I)	Incorrect label.	Misleading description.	...	Old stock. (Recent stock see sample No. 270A). Manufacturers most perturbed as, according to recipe, these soups should contain 3.5% of fat. Their laboratory will investigate. Meanwhile the Ministry of Food has approved the use of the word "Creamed" as a cooking term meaning mixed together. No further action.
85	Creamed Beef and Vegetable Soup (I)	Incorrect label.	Ambiguous designation.		
86	Creamed Vegetable Soup (I)	Incorrect label.	Ambiguous designation.		
270A	Cream of Tomato Soup (Powder) (I)	Incorrect label.	Misleading description.	...	Agreed to delete "Cream of" from reprinted satchets. See sample No. 3685.
345*	Diarrhoea or Bowel Mixture (I)	Incorrect label.	Formula not stated in full.		Reported to the Pharmaceutical Society for action.
407	Tincture of Iodine (I)	...	32% deficient of Iodine	...	Retailer took over stock when business was purchased over three years ago. He has undertaken to withdraw the remaining 15 bottles from sale.

No.	Description.	Nature of Offence.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
413	Pork Sausages	23.0% deficient of meat	Plea of guilty. Fined £5, advocate's fee £5 5s. 0d.
419	Peppermint Tablets (I) ...	90% deficient of the total amount of oil of peppermint and menthol.	Sample from old stock. New stock will be sampled when available.
569	Pork Sausages	12.3% deficient of meat	Cautioned.
570*	Genuine Malt Vinegar—Non-brewed condiment ...	Incorrect label. False description ...	Plea of guilty. Fined £20 and costs £1.
575	L.L. & C. Lozenges (I) ...	Incorrect label. False description ...	See formal sample No. 874.
624*	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine (I) ...	22% deficient of ammonia	Remainder of stock returned to manufacturers.
678	Ground Nutmeg (I)	Percentage of volatile oil very low, inferior quality.	Retailer states that the stock is over one year old. Five other cartons have been destroyed. Warned not to carry too large a stock of this commodity.
765	Creamed Tomato Soup (I) ...	Incorrect label. Ambiguous designation.	See No. 85. Ministry of Food has approved the use of the word "Creamed".
857	Cream Ices	Incorrect label False description ...	Vendor has withdrawn display card. Manufacturers also approached on the matter.
874*	Linseed, Liquorice and Chlorodyne Lozenges	Incorrect label False description ...	The firm has gone into voluntary liquidation.
940	Seidlitz Powders (I)	Contents of White Packet 20% deficient in weight.	The sample was of old stock. The remainder was withdrawn from sale.
948	Cream of Tomato Soup (I) ...	77% deficient of fat	Misunderstanding regarding "Code of Practice". See sample No. 1195.
949	Chicken Noodle Soup (I) ...	Incorrect label. False description ...	Stock over a year old. Matter dealt with last year.
1008*	Potato Crisps (I)	Incorrect label. Vitamin declaration incorrect.	Letter to manufacturers.
1062	Rum and Butter Bon-Bons (I)	Incorrect label. False description ...	Cautioned. Labels to be amended to read "Rum and Butter Flavoured Bon-Bons".
1063*	Brompton Cough Lozenges B.P.C.	Adulterated. Not Brompton Cough Lozenges of B.P.C. Contain over 35% of mineral matter.	Manufacturers and distributors fined £5 5s. each, and costs £8 14s. each.
1106	Ground Almonds (I)	F.F. acids 33% (as oleic acid) unfit for human consumption.	Cautioned. Remainder of stock in same condition and was destroyed.
1122*	Linseed, Liquorice and Chlorodyne Lozenges (I)	Incorrect label. No chlorodyne present. False description.	Retailer cautioned.
1195*	Cream of Tomato Soup	74% deficient of fat	Strong caution. Manufacturers have agreed to meet the requirements of the Code of Practice.
1271*	Cough Sweets (I)	Incorrect label. Quantitative particulars—ambiguous statement.	Manufacturers agreed to remove formula and recommendation as a medicine from label.
1570	Cream of Tomato Soup (I) ...	72.8% deficient of fat	An imported article. Results reported to the Ministry of Food.
1631*	Cream of Asparagus Soup ...	57.1% deficient of fat	See sample No. 1195.
1632*	Cream of Celery Soup	77.1% deficient of fat	
1946	— Cream Toffees (I)	Incorrect label. Ambiguous description.	Manufacturers interviewed and it was agreed that these Toffees should not be sold under this name in this County unless the butter-fat content was increased.
1953	Home Made Butters (I)	45% deficient of butter-fat ...	Letter to makers for observations. Recently increased butter-fat to 4%.

No.	Description.	Nature of Offence.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
2055	Ice Cream	10% deficient of fat	Strongly cautioned. Skimmed milk powder instead of whole milk had been used in its preparation. Further samples were satisfactory.
2201	Liqueur Pralines (I)	Incorrect label. False description	An imported product. Endeavours are being made to obtain a formal sample. Fresh supplies not yet received by the retailer.
2281	Cheese Spread (I)	Unsaleable condition, mould growth.	Both samples from the same store. Old stock and the remainder of this stock was withdrawn from sale.
2282	Pasteurised Process Cheese Spread (I)	„ „	
2291	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine (I)	20% deficient of ammonia	
2319	Gee's Linctus B.P.C. (I)	Incorrect label. No name or address of seller.	Reported to the Pharmaceutical Society for necessary action.
2378	Lemonade Powder (I)	Incorrect label. Statement of ingredients incorrect.	Retailer had held stock for more than a year—no further action.
2431	Cream of Tomato Soup	6.5% deficient of fat	See sample No. 3011.
2453*	Special Meat Roll	Incorrect label. Statement of meat percentage is incorrect.	Manufacturers state they will take precautions to avoid a repetition and have asked retailer to return remainder of stock.
2464	Ice Cream	12% deficient of fat	See sample No. 2939.
2578	Butter Scotch (I)	False description. Less than 1% butter-fat.	Enquiries still proceeding. Manufacturer's records show that appropriate quantities of butter-fat were issued for all batches of Butter Scotch.
2832	Cake Mix (I)	Infestation	Old stock. Retailer has destroyed the few remaining packets.
2927*	Best Butter Ovals (I)	40% deficient of butter-fat	Manufacturers immediately stopped production on learning the results of the analysis. Investigations and enquiries being made, as recipe should give at least 4.5% butter-fat.
2939	Ice Cream	12% deficient of fat	A summons was issued for this sample and for sample No. 2431. Fined £4 on each summons.
3011	Cream of Tomato Soup (I)	70% deficient of fat	See No. 3347.
3012*	Cream of Savoury Tomato Flavour Soup (I)	Incorrect label. Misleading description.	Letter to manufacturers.
3013	Cream of Tomato Soup	68.5% deficient of fat	See No. 3347.
3191	Salad Cream (I)	Slight infestation with faeces and larva—probably a moth.	Remainder of stock destroyed.
3192	Horseradish Sauce (I)	Incorrect label. Ingredients stated in incorrect order.	A very old stock. Manufacturer agreed to comply with the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order in future.
3197	Liquorice, Linseed and Chlorodyne Lozenges (I)	Incorrect label. Not Liquorice, Linseed & Chlorodyne Lozenges. No morphine present.	See No. 3466.
3270	Pickling Spice (I)	Infestation with beetles (stegobium)	Retailer has destroyed the remainder of the stock.
3339	Special Home Made Butters (I)	35% deficient of fat	See No. 1953. Old stock and a further sample will be taken when the fresh stock is received.
3347*	Cream of Tomato Soup	71.4% deficient of fat	Reported to the Ministry of Food.
3366*	„ „ (I)	68.5% deficient of fat	

No.	Description.	Nature of Offence.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
3413	Rum and Butters	Butter-fat (if any) less than 0.5%...	Further sample received. See No. 3658.
3429	Cream of Mushroom Soup (Powder) (I)	Incorrect label. Misleading description. ...	See No. 3685.
3466	Linseed, Liquorice and Chlorodyne Lozenges	Incorrect label. Not Linseed, Liquorice & Chlorodyne Lozenges. No morphine or linseed present. ...	Retailer at fault as lozenges were stamped "L.L. & C. Lozenges" by packers. Retailer cautioned and he has warned his assistants. See No. 3685.
3471	Cream of Mushroom Soup (Powder) (I)	Incorrect label. Misleading description (less than 1% fat in prepared soup). ...	See No. 3685.
3472	Cream of Tomato Soup (Powder) (I)	Incorrect label. Misleading description (less than 2% fat in prepared soup). ...	See No. 3685.
3483	Cream of Tomato Soup (Powder) (I)	Incorrect label. Misleading description. ...	See No. 3685.
3485	Dairy Butter Mints (I)	75% deficient of butter-fat	Letter to manufacturers. No reply received. Formal sample to be taken.
3515	Beef Sausages	20% deficient of meat	Further sample taken which was satisfactory.
3517	Sliced Pork	Contains cereal equivalent to 1.6% Starch. ...	Plea of guilty. Fined £2, advocate's fee £3 3s. 0d.
3658	Rum and Butters (I)	Butter fat (if any) less than 0.5%...	Letter to manufacturers.
3684	Cream of Tomato Soup (Powder) (I)	Incorrect label. Misleading description. ...	See No. 3685.
3685*	Cream of Mushroom Soup (Powder) (I)	Incorrect label. Misleading description. ...	Awaiting result of enquiries by a sampling officer of another authority.
3834	— Salt (I)	Incorrect label. Minerals incorrectly stated. ...	Under consideration.
3968	Dairy Butter Scotch (I)	At least 75% deficient of butter-fat	Letter to manufacturers.
4004	Cream of Celery Soup (I)	71.4% deficient of fat	Old stock. See No. 1195.

*Further details are given in the following paragraphs. (I) denotes Informal Sample.

No. 345 Diarrhœa or Bowel Mixture (Informal). The bottle had a large and a small label attached to it.

The large label read:—

Mist. Cretæ. Co. B.P.C.

and the small one:—

Pharmaceutical Journal Formulary No. 3981, contains Tr. Opii B.P. '98. 1/160.

The criticisms of these labels are:—

- (1) Mist. Cretæ. Co. B.P.C. is not an adequate description as all B.P.C. references must be to the correct edition.
- (2) P.J. Formulary numbers are not acceptable for the purposes of the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941, and
- (3) Formula 3981 is almost, but not exactly, the same as the B.P.C. 1934 preparation.

The proper declaration for this mixture would be a list of the ingredients from which it is prepared set out in the correct terms with the appropriate quantitative particulars.

The information was sent to the Pharmaceutical Society who have agreed to take the necessary action.

No. 570 Genuine Malt Vinegar—Non-brewed Condiment. This sample was sold in a bottle which was embossed with the words "Genuine Malt Vinegar" and on a label attached to the bottle the article was designated as "Non-brewed Condiment, a solution of acetic acid and caramel".

The sample proved to be a solution of acetic acid and caramel and a prosecution was undertaken under the Merchandise Marks Act.

A plea of guilty was entered and the defendants were fined £20 and costs of £1.

No. 624 Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine (Informal). The Pharmacist returned the remainder of the stock to the manufacturers and their analysts found that all the bottles were deficient in ammonia. They stated that all the small bottles were filled from one batch of Liq. Quinn. Ammon. which was correct at the time of packing. They can only suggest that the deficiencies are due to faulty closures of the bottles. They have never before received a similar complaint and instructions were immediately given to prevent any similar bottle being distributed in future. They are conducting experiments as to the best way of packing.

No. 874 Linseed, Liquorice and Chlorodyne Lozenges. Enquiries regarding the packers of these lozenges revealed that the firm had gone into voluntary liquidation on 1st October, 1952.

The Managing Director of the new company has stated that they are unlikely to be continuing this line. They have been warned that they should sell no further stock of the existing packets.

No. 1008 Potato Crisps (Informal). The statement of composition given in an advertisement concerning the above article was correct but the declaration of the presence and amounts of vitamins did not meet the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order. This declaration, in fact, had no meaning as the figures were given in no recognizable units, neither was the amount of the article stated in which these units were contained.

The statement read :—

Vitamin B	...	...	...	24.1 units.
Vitamin C	...	...	...	27.1 ,,

These Vitamin contents should have been expressed as milligrams of aneurin hydrochloride and milligrams of ascorbic acid in one ounce of the article respectively. The normal daily requirements of these vitamins are 300 International Units of Vitamin B and 30 milligrams of Vitamin C, and the sample contained only 40 I.U. of Vitamin B and 1.9 mgm. of Vitamin C in two packets of crisps. On the basis that two packets of the crisps represent the ordinary amount consumed by a normal healthy adult in one day, I expressed the opinion that no reference to the presence of these vitamins was justified.

The manufacturers stated that they would obtain a copy of the Labelling of Food Order and would, in future, comply with its requirements.

No. 1063 Brompton Cough Lozenges B.P.C. These lozenges should contain extract of liquorice, oil of anise and the simple base consisting of sugar and a small amount of gum. The sample contained at least 35 per cent. of insoluble mineral matter, namely aluminium silicate (kaolin) and calcium carbonate, together with starch, charcoal and not more than 6.5 per cent. of sugar which may have been derived from the extract of liquorice. The distributors were summoned and they, in turn,

summoned the manufacturers. It was stated by the defence that the B.P.C. bases for lozenges were only suggested bases and that the action of these lozenges was the same as that of the B.P.C. lozenges. In my opinion the B.P.C. does not "suggest" bases for these lozenges but actually specifies the base to be used and it is open to doubt whether insoluble mineral matter would have a soothing effect on inflamed mucus membrane. The manufacturers and distributors were both fined.

No. 1122 Linseed, Liquorice and Chlorodyne Lozenges (Informal). The lozenges were stamped with the words "Linseed, liquorice compound" and the analysis showed that no chlorodyne was present. Enquiries revealed the fact that the assistant who sold the lozenges was to blame and he should not have sold them as L.L. & C. Lozenges. The retailer was cautioned.

No. 1195 Cream of Tomato Soup. The "Cream of ——" Soups should contain at least 3.5 per cent. of fat and this sample was found to contain only 0.9 per cent. The packers stated that it was not necessary for their cream soups to contain a minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of fat as they are made with milk from their own dairy herd and therefore have an actual butter-fat content.

They were strongly cautioned and have agreed to manufacture "Cream of ——" Soups in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice in future.

No. 1271 Cough Sweets. These were not sold as cough sweets but under a trade name. They were taken from a container to which was attached a label giving the composition of the sweets. The ingredients consisted of various oils, menthol and tartaric acid but the amounts given had no significance as no units were stated. The analysis showed that they were in the main a mixture of cane sugar and liquid glucose, with small amounts of tartaric acid, menthol and oils of anise, cloves, eucalyptus and peppermint.

The preparation was recommended for coughs, colds and bronchial disorders which constitutes a recommendation as a medicine.

This article should not have been sold loose and without a label on which the appropriate quantitative particulars were given.

A letter from the manufacturers' solicitors stated that their clients had decided to remove the formula and recommendation as a medicine from the label.

No. 2453 Special Meat Roll. The label on the container in which the above article was sold stated that it contained 64 per cent. of meat, but analysis showed that the meat content was not more than 59 per cent. The manufacturers were most perturbed by this result and the only solution they were able to offer was that something must have been overlooked by the operative when the mixing was carried out. They will take all reasonable precautions to avoid a repetition of this trouble and have asked the retailer to return all remaining tins of this batch for inspection and replacement.

No. 2927 Best Butter Ovals (Informal). The sample contained only 2.4 per cent. of butter-fat instead of at least 4.0 per cent. The manufacturers stated that they were most surprised at the results of analysis and stopped production of this line pending thorough investigations. The recipe should have given a product containing at least 4.5 per cent. of butter-fat. Later they informed us that the method of manufacture had been changed and the butter-fat content should now be about 5.1 per cent. A sample actually gave on analysis 5.3 per cent. of butter-fat.

No. 3012 Cream of Savoury Tomato Flavour Soup (Informal). The sample was a powdered soup and the prepared soup would contain much less than 1.0 per cent. of fat, whereas liquid "Cream of ——" soups should contain not less than 3.5 per cent. of fat. The manufacturers stated that they were of opinion that the Code of Practice only applied to liquid soups as it is impossible to make

a powdered soup so that the prepared liquid soup would comply with the code. They had no intention of misleading the public and qualified the description with the word "flavour". It was pointed out to them that the code does apply and the word "flavour" appeared to qualify "tomato". The manufacturers have agreed to consult the Ministry of Food on the matter.

Nos. 3011 (Informal), 3013, 3347 and 3366 (Informal), Cream of Tomato Soup. These samples were from soups prepared by the same manufacturers and they were all imported products. The importers were of opinion that as both butter and cream are used in the preparation of these soups the Code of Practice does not apply, that is they need not contain $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of fat. Analysis showed them to contain only about 1.0 per cent. of fat and this was not all butter-fat. The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Food and it was stated that it was not their intention the Code of Practice should be limited in this way though it was realised that this construction could possibly be placed on it. Discussions are being held with the trade and the results will be sent to us. In the meantime the time limit for the taking of proceedings had expired.

Nos. 3429, 3471, 3472, 3483, 3684 and 3685, Cream of — Soups (Informal). These samples were all of powdered soups and were made by the same manufacturers. The prepared soups would contain less than one per cent. of fat. These manufacturers had previously agreed to omit the words "Cream of" at the next reprint of the sachets or containers. Another authority has also complained about this matter and their sampling officer is to call on the firm as the offices and factory are in his district. We are awaiting the results of his enquiries.

Ice Cream.

The Food Standards (Ice-Cream) (Amendment) Order, 1952, remained in force until The Food Standards (Ice-Cream) Order, 1953, came into operation on the 1st June of that year. This latter order raised the standard for fat content from 4 to 5 per cent. and for milk solids other than fat from 5 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The amount of cane sugar has remained unchanged at 10 per cent. since March, 1951.

During the year eighty-seven samples were analysed, of which four were found to be unsatisfactory. One of these unsatisfactory samples was sold as "Cream" Ice and contained 10.5 per cent. of fat. It was pointed out to the manufacturers that while the fat content was good, many ice-creams were on the market which contain 10 per cent. and more of fat and which are sold simply as "ice-cream". The use of the designation "Cream" ice for this sample which suggests that it is of superior quality, is therefore not justified. They have agreed to alter the designation.

Two other samples were from the same vendor and each contained only 4.4 per cent. of fat. A successful prosecution was undertaken against this vendor.

The remaining unsatisfactory sample was 10 per cent. deficient of fat which was due to the fact that skimmed milk powder had been used in its preparation instead of whole milk. Further samples from the same vendor were satisfactory.

The average fat content of the ice-cream samples was 9.6 per cent., and 45, that is just over half, contained 10 to 12.8 per cent. of fat, which considering the standard is only 5.0 per cent. is very satisfactory.

Iced Lollies.

Seven samples of iced lollies taken under the Food and Drugs Act were received; three other samples were also examined.

These articles consist mainly of flavoured frozen sugar solutions and, at the present time, there is no standard for them.

The results of the analyses are given below:—

No.	Total Solids	Cane Sugar	Other sugars as invert sugar	Ash	Liquid glucose	Fat
1	13.2	3.9	7.1	0.14	Absent	—
2	12.0	2.6	7.4	0.22	Present	—
3	11.6	3.5	5.3	0.2	„	—
4	5.1	1.0	3.4	0.04	Absent	—
5	17.7	9.5	5.0	0.05	„	—
6	11.8	2.1	7.3	0.15	„	—
7	24.3	10.5	3.4	0.54	„	4.6
8	11.6	3.5	5.3	0.2	Present	—
9	3.3	Nil.	3.2	0.07	„	—
10	6.0	1.1	4.4	0.06	„	—

Sample No. 7 was sold as Lollie Cream; the fat content was fairly satisfactory and the sugar content good. In fact all seven samples excepting No. 4 contained satisfactory amounts of total sugar. Of the other three samples Nos. 9 and 10 were of inferior quality.

Meat Pies.

Thirteen meat pies were examined during the year and the following table gives their meat contents calculated as uncooked meat:—

Total meat in filling %	77.3	78.7	85.9	40.1	100.0	93.5	72.8
Total meat in whole pie %	21.9	30.0	16.1	11.6	46.5	35.7	22.8
Total meat in filling %	88.8	60.7	56.1	93.9	76.4	87.0	
Total meat in whole pie %	30.7	12.0	6.1	31.6	21.0	29.0	

Only one sample contained less than 10 per cent. of meat, four contained less than 20 per cent. and seven less than 25 per cent. of meat. That is 54 per cent. would fail on a standard of 25 per cent. referred to uncooked meat.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act.

The total number of samples received was 38, of which 25 were fertilisers and 13 were feeding stuffs.

Details of these samples are given below :—

Fertilisers.	Number Informal.	Number Satisfactory.	Number unsatisfactory as regards—	
			Composition.	Requirements of the Act.
Sulphate of Potash	6	6	—	—
Sulphate of Ammonia	9	8	—	1
Dried Blood	2	1	1	—
Bone Meal	1	1	—	—
Superphosphate	1	1	—	—
Fertilisers	2	2	—	—
Liquid Manures	2	2	—	—
Nitrate of Soda	1	1	—	—
Hoof and Horn	1	1	—	—
Total	25	23	1	1

The sample of sulphate of ammonia which failed to comply with the requirements of the Act, was sold without a declaration of composition. The retailer stated that he had taken every step to comply with the Act but his assistant failed to hand over the statement with the sample. He has undertaken to ensure that statements are issued in future. The unsatisfactory dried blood sample contained 3 per cent. excess of nitrogen. The manufacturers have undertaken to state the nitrogen content more exactly.

The remaining samples were satisfactory. Six of sulphate of ammonia were guaranteed to contain 20.6 per cent of nitrogen and actually contained 20.4 to 20.9 per cent. The other sample contained 21.1 per cent. and was guaranteed to contain 21 per cent. of nitrogen. The potash (K_2O) content of the sulphate of potash samples ranged from 47.6 to 50.0 per cent. while the guarantees ranged from 47.5 to 48.8 per cent.

The dried blood sample contained 11.9 per cent. of nitrogen against a declared amount of 11.5 per cent. and the superphosphate contained soluble phosphoric acid (P_2O_5) to the extent of 18.4 per cent., the declared amount being 18 per cent.

One of the liquid manure samples contained nitrogen compounds only in an amount equal to 13.5 per cent. of nitrogen and was guaranteed to contain 13.18 per cent., while the other contained 5.8 per cent. of nitrogen, 7.2 per cent. of soluble phosphoric acid (P_2O_5) and 8.1 per cent. of potash (K_2O) with declared values of 5.75, 6.6 and 7.4 per cent. respectively. The two fertilisers were compound fertilisers containing all three of the principal constituents and nitrogen compounds and phosphoric acid (P_2O_5) were present in the bone meal to the extent of 3.71 and 20.4 per cent. respectively.

Feeding Stuffs.

	Formal.	Informal.	Number Unsatisfactory.
Dried grass	—	2	2
Pig food (No. 2)	—	1	—
Oats and beans	—	2	—
Unrationed poultry meal	1	1	2
Poultry pellets	—	1	—
Bran	—	1	—
Growers' pellets	—	1	1
Layers' mash	—	1	—
Calf meal	—	1	—
Millers' offals	—	1	1
	<hr/> 1 <hr/>	<hr/> 12 <hr/>	<hr/> 6 <hr/>

The two samples of dried grass were guaranteed to contain 9 to 10 per cent. of protein; one sample was satisfactory as regards this guarantee but the other was 6.0 per cent. deficient of the amount. Neither sample should have been described as "dried grass" as they were "dried green roughage". Only two bags were left in the shop one opened and the other unopened and the above samples were taken one from each bag. The retailer was cautioned and the Inspector paid a visit to the premises of the manufacturer but found that the stock had been exhausted so that no further samples could be taken.

The composition of the informal sample of unrationed poultry meal did not agree with the declaration and a formal sample was taken. This also failed to comply with the declared composition. The manufacturer stated that the meal was manufactured from screenings and the statement of composition was voluntary and the analysis was marked "approximately", and further the manufacture of this article had ceased some months previously owing to the derationing of feeding stuffs. The manufacturer was cautioned. The sample of growers' pellets was sold without a declaration and the vendor was cautioned and his attention drawn to the requirements of the Act. He undertook to supply the necessary statement in future. With regard to the sample of millers' offals which contained less fibre than was declared, the manufacturer has agreed to revise the statement.

The pig food sample was alleged to be the cause of constipation in pigs but it was found to be satisfactory and no injurious substances were present. One of the samples of oats and beans was taken of the product before it was made into cake and the other represented the cake to which minerals had also been added. It was suspected that maize had been added by the millers but none was found. Some yellowish coloured particles were present which proved to be bean by microscopical examination. The two samples were of satisfactory composition.

Chemical Analysis of Drinking Waters.

Routine examination of Public Supplies	181
Other samples	86
Samples for suspended solids	1
Samples in connection with metallic contamination	35
Miscellaneous samples	10
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Total	313
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This is the third year in which the chemical examination of the main water supplies of the County has been carried out. The fluorine content has shown very little variation.

The miscellaneous samples consisted of three for the presence of lead, none was found; three for chlorine and two for reaction and free carbon dioxide. The remaining two were deposits in water; one was found to be calcium carbonate and the other consisted of iron compounds and vegetable matter.

Sewages, Effluents, etc.

The samples received were as follows:—

Samples from Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	54
Samples from the Somerset River Board	...	...	...	...	...	537
						<hr/>
Total	...					591
						<hr/>

Details regarding these samples are given below:—

	Local Authorities.	Somerset River Board.
Sewages ...	3	3
Effluents—		
Sewage	24	186
Trade	5	63
River and Stream Water	18	141
Samples for dissolved oxygen content	—	144
Miscellaneous samples	4	—

Two of the miscellaneous samples were from a marine lake and two were of deposits formed on a river bed. These latter proved to be mainly growths of sewage fungus, probably *Beggiatoa*, together with worms and diatoms.

Miscellaneous Samples.

Eighty-four miscellaneous samples were received during the year from various sources: other local authorities, private, school meals section, etc. A summary is given below:—

Foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	43	
Antiseptic	...	...	...	...	1	
Detergents	...	...	...	...	2	
Brandy	...	...	...	...	1	
Chicken	...	...	...	...	1	
Water	...	...	...	...	1	Copper present in very small amount.
Deposit from aluminium kettle	...	...	...	...	1	An appreciable amount of copper was present.
Ash	...	...	...	...	1	
Sea water	...	...	...	...	1	
Deposit	...	...	...	...	2	
Vomit	...	...	...	...	1	No poisons found.
Scum from pond	...	...	...	...	1	
Oil	...	...	...	...	1	
Worms	...	...	...	...	4	
Sludge	...	...	...	...	3	
Water from storage tanks	...	...	...	...	2	
Fat and detergent	...	...	...	...	1	

Scale from boiler	...	...	...	1
Residue from Orange Squash	...	...	...	1
Rat poison	...	...	...	1
River water	...	...	...	1
Ground water	...	...	...	7
Soil	...	...	...	2
Earth	...	...	...	1
Deposit in milk	...	...	...	1
Ampoules	...	...	...	1
Alumina	...	...	...	1

The majority of the samples of foodstuffs were submitted because of complaints and for examination for the presence of injurious substances. Cauliflower water contained iron causing discolouration, beans and rice were musty although no mould growth was detected, cake and bread samples were found to contain charred cereal, dirt, mould growth, mineral oil and one sample of bread contained faecal matter of some animal. Six samples of milk were received from private sources: two were of poor quality as regards their fat content and one also was poor in solids-not-fat but the freezing point was normal which indicated that the low figure was not due to extraneous water.

A repulsive looking black deposit contained in a soft drink carton proved to be a mould growth probably of the genus *alternaria*. Six dried milk powders were all satisfactory except that one sample contained many hard lumps and possessed an objectionable smell. The insoluble matter was also rather large in amount. It was reported as unsatisfactory.

The sample of brandy was of inferior quality but the alcoholic strength was correct. It possessed a very poor bouquet and it was probably not properly matured.

The contents of the crop of the chicken had a slight smell of phosphine and its presence was confirmed by chemical tests. The amount of zinc present was 305 parts per million which is equivalent to 403 parts per million of zinc phosphide. The gizzard contained nearly 50 per cent. of grit and excluding this the remainder contained 648 parts per million of zinc phosphide. The amount of phosphide present was sufficient to account for the death of the chicken.

A sample of an emulsion of oil which was entering a sewage works in fairly large quantities was found to be a high boiling point mineral oil together with grease. The emulsion was not broken by the addition of lime but promising results were obtained by the use of acid.

Two samples of sewage sludge were of average composition and they are to be used as fertilisers.

The scum taken from the surface of a pond consisted of a large number of diatoms, desmids and filamentous algæ together with structureless debris. Advice was given as to the removal of the scum and a suggestion for keeping the pond free from further growth.

The ground water samples were submitted for analysis with reference to their sulphate contents which were found to range from 37 to 320 parts per million as sulphur trioxide (SO_3). The two soils were also submitted for the same purpose and were found to contain less than 50 parts per million and 500 parts per million respectively.

The deposit found in a sample of milk proved to be soil and the alumina which was used in the treatment of water was satisfactory.

Laboratory Fees.

The fees received by this laboratory for work carried out during the year amounted to £638 7s. 6d.
